MORNING KC

バカとゴホ

AND OTHER STORIES

SHINKICHI KATO

バカとゴッホ

The Idiots and Gogh

1

加藤伸吉
SHINKICHI KATOH

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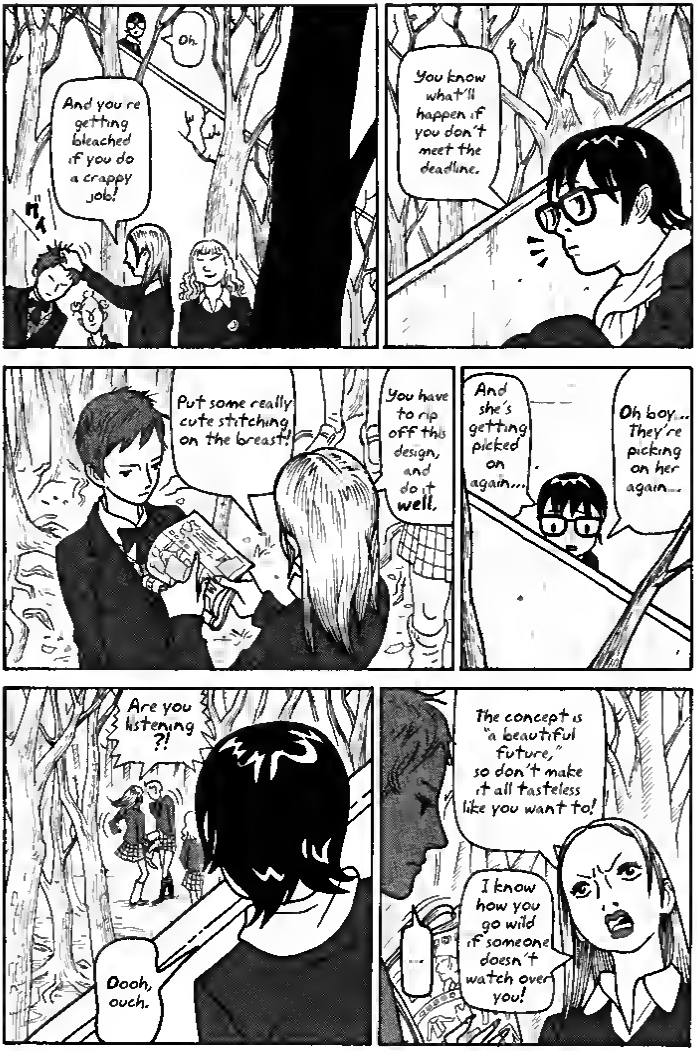
CHAPTER 1

THE IDIOTS & GOGH

They wanted me to pass the message on.
カクカク
カクカク
I guess there's no time for music when exams come at you...
カクカクカクカク

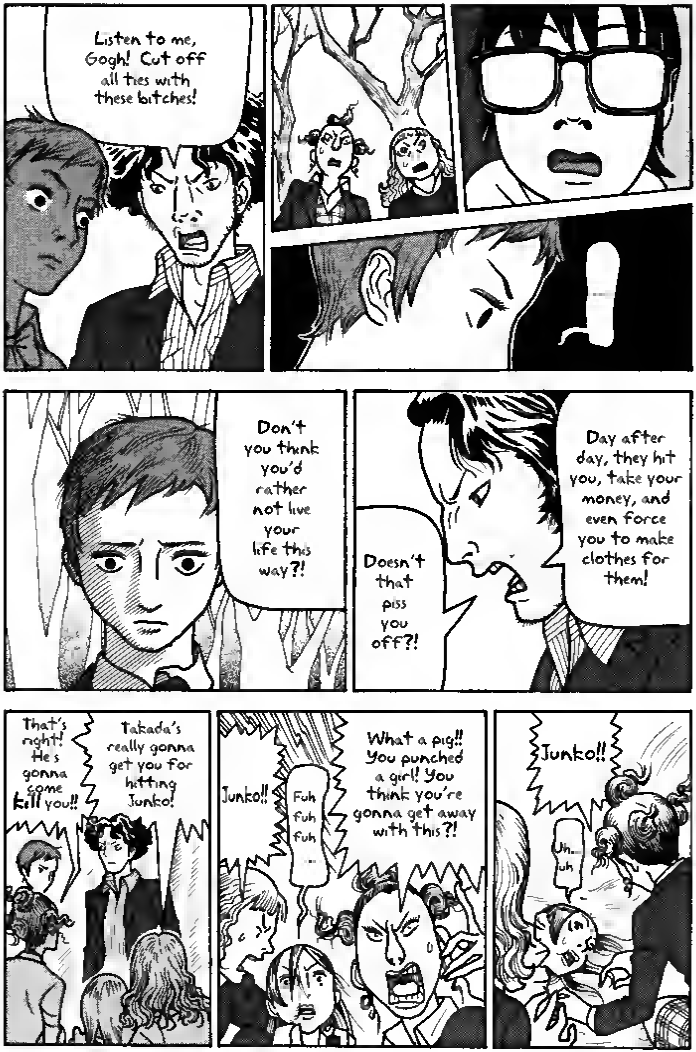
It's a lonely fate.
Yeah, yeah.
I understand their position.
I don't blame 'em. Guys like us who are getting jobs right out of school are the minority.
It sure is...
Yeah ...
You bet I'm lonely.
Yyyeah ...

To us, high school was the band
The last culture festival was our chance to go out with a bang
Two of the members of our band, "Moozmus," have left just before the culture festival The greatest opportunity of all *
* Note: "Moozmus" is a play on the word "muzumuzu" which means itchy or impatient
It was only meaningful as all four.
What could we do with the two of us?
But a band without its rhythm section is curry rice without the rice
Jin Sakai is sulking. He's a straightforward guy, so when he sulks, he sulks hardcore.
...
You're right.


Oh.
And you're getting bleached if you do a crappy job!
You know what'll happen if you don't meet the deadline.
Put some really cute stitching on the breast!
You have to rip off this design, and do it well.
And she's getting picked on again...
Oh boy... They're picking on her again...
Are you listening?!
Oooh, ouch.
The concept is "a beautiful future," so don't make it all tasteless like you want to!
I know how you go wild if someone doesn't watch over you!

?
Ugh.
I don't even want to watch
GOD DAMMIT would you just knock it off for once!!
The hell do you want? Get lost!
It ain't got nothin' to do with you!
I'm sick of seeing you acting all tough just because she won't fight back!
Let's see some respect for human rights and all that jazz!!

There ain't a single thing in this world that don't got to do with me!!
Hah!
Did you hear that? What an idiot!
HAHAHAHAHA
What's the meaning of this, Gogh?! Are you hooking up with this idiot?!
No...
I don't know him...
ドサ
ドン

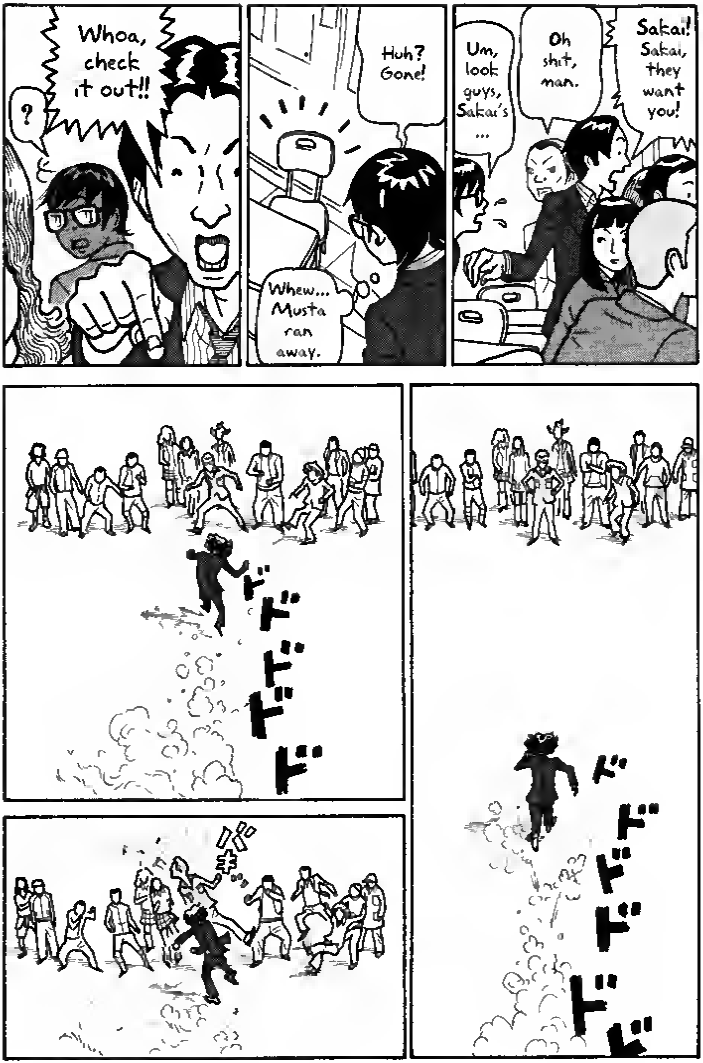

Listen to me, Gogh! Cut off all ties with these bitches!
Don't you think you'd rather not live your life this way?!
Doesn't that piss you off?!
Day after day, they hit you, take your money, and even force you to make clothes for them!
That's right! He's gonna come kill you!!
Takada's really gonna get you for hitting Junko!
Junko!!
Fuh fuh fuh...
What a pig!! You punched a girl! You think you're gonna get away with this?!
Junko!!
Uh... uh...

I'm fine... Leave me alone.
Hey...
I'm living my life as best I can...
Gogh ...
Is that how she thanks you?!
What was that for?
Hey
Gogh

Gogh's an odd duck..
Gogh..
is a nickname, of course.. When we discussed Van Gogh's self portrait with his bandaged ear in class,
She just so happened to have hurt her ear at the same time..
She doesn't dislike filling such unfair requests, in fact, she seems to enjoy it. That's what's so scary about it..

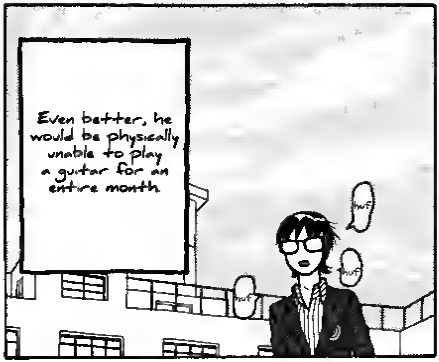
...
And set off a reaction.
But something about his fiery nature and heated art fit her perfectly,
It was apparently caused by a botched ear piercing.
Uh- oh, I don't like that
Hey, look.
And Junko's group.
That's Takada from Tsuno High.
Back in your seats!

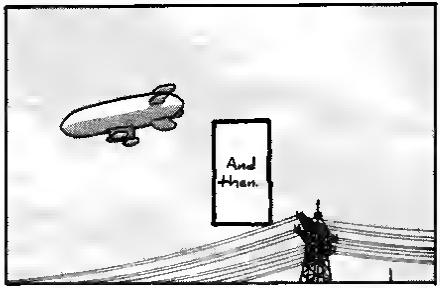
No wonder she beat you up.
Put junk in her butthair?
Mmm... muh...
H-Hey, Sakai! Junko brought her boyfriend here to beat you up!
There's a whole huge gang of them!!
C'mon man, wake up!
No, you gotta scram! We can't play the fest if you're hurt!
It's been so long, I wonder if I can hold out.
Hmm, a fight hu-hhhh?
Hey!! Is there a guy named Sakai around here?!
Come on down and get ready to meet your maker!!

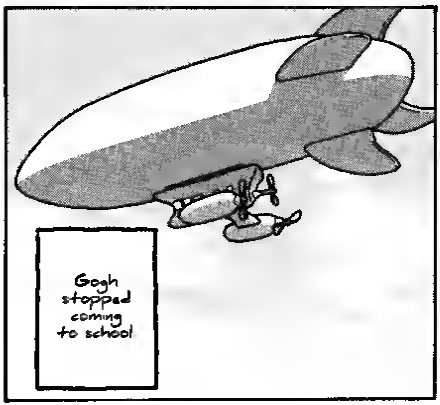

Whoa, check it out!!
?
Huh? Gone!
Whew... Musta ran away.
Um, look guys, Sakai's ...
Oh shit, man.
Sakai! Sakai, they want you!
ドドドドド
ドドドドド

Takes a lot more than words to kill a man!!
Crush him!!
That's it...
Johnny!!
Hey, Takada!
Sigh
A crushing! Now that's more like it!!
STOP THEM!
HEY YOU!

...
Yeah, it's.
Yeah
Holy shit, what a punch!
Go!
Fuck 'em up, Sakai!
Sakai! Behind you!
Ooh, that was painful!
Sakai was an idiot, but he was taking responsibility for the punch he threw.
I felt slightly embarrassed that I had told him to run.


Even better, he would be physically unable to play a guitar for an entire month.


And then.


Gogh stopped coming to school.

For this temporary excitement, Sakai received the prize of suspension.
Hey! Knock it off!
Get off him, Sakai!
Whaaaaa!

She stopped coming, eh?
Here.
中華 味飯
A few days later
I'll go offer an apology!
Huh?
I made things even harder for her...
Guess I shouldn't have done that.
You stuck to the idiot's gameplan.
No, you were great.
Gogh lives alone, apart from her parents, for family reasons.. or so the rumors say.
I think she lives right near Teruo's house...
W-Wait, I'm not done yet.
Know where she lives?

Is that her?
Whoa.
I think.
Near here.
...
What's this? Moving out?!
W... Whoa!
Gogh!
Hey!
Where you going with all this luggage?
Hey, c'mon.
...

It's all right.
I'm sorry... I just went kinda berserk, without even thinking about you.
I hear you're not going to school anymore...
Huh?!
I'm going to quit
I'm dropping out entirely.
But why now...?
Why would you quit?!
Hey Shoji, help out!
I'm on it
Don't follow me...
S... Stop it...
ヴィィ
Hey, talk to me!
C'mon, why?

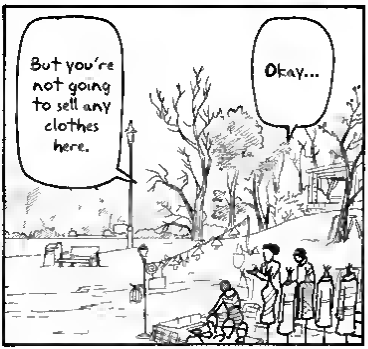
You're setting up shop?!
Huh?!

I've always wanted to do this.
It's fine.

Seriously, Gogh, I'm sorry! I can't bear being responsible for forcing you to stoop to this...

Oh-hh.
Ohhh-hhh?

Uh, Gogh? Hello?
Hmm... perfect!

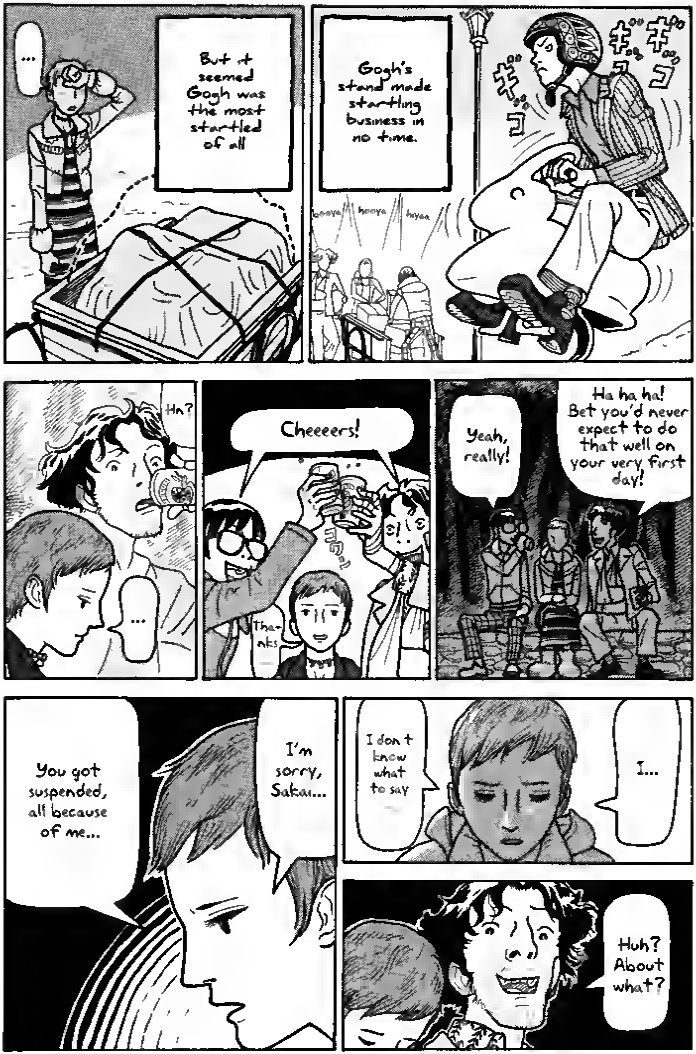

But you're not going to sell any clothes here.
Okay...

Pouring right out of her back
I could feel Gogh's sincerity...
GOGH
couturière
Many people...
Not drawing...
But as we thought, nobody came by...
...
Are these...
All hand-made?
コク...
I guess you really were special.
Yeah.

Junko and her friends were getting all your goods for free!
I get it now!
Though it doesn't have to be big...
Y... Yes...
So, you want to get your own big-ass store in the future?
Yes, but...
...
Yeah! That makes it even worse.
Yeah, all right! I can see what you're saying!
Ha ha ha ha!
...
That helped me get better...

Yeah! Not bad!
Will it suit me?
Gogh, you got any guy's stuff?
A little
Um... yes...
Well, all right! Let's take a look, then!
so we gotta call on the help of our genius designer, Gogh!
You know you an' me, we don't got the good looks,
Yeah, I'm gettin' in the mood!
What, you're gonna play with a broken arm?!
It's for the festival, so the bigger the better.
Huh? Ummm, well...
well?
Gogh! What do you think about using women's stuff, just for the stage?
Oh... yes!
Excuse me...
What, really? All right, I'll try it on!
Really ?!
Hey, think this would look good on you?
See? Perfect!!

Hey lady, you'll wanna buy that now! She's gonna be a huge designer in the future!
Hey
Yeah
Put a tag on it
Oh, that's, uh...
How much is this ring?
Thank you very much!
hang in there
we'll come again
here's your change
Wow, really?
let's take a look!
wow, it's cheap!!
these are hand-made?
oh, this is so cute!!
Thank you very much.
Ahaha.
...
Yeah, nice job!
Way to go, eh?


...
But it seemed Gogh was the most startled of all
Gogh's stand made startling business in no time.
Hn?
...
Cheeeers!
Thanks!
Yeah, really!
Ha ha ha! Bet you'd never expect to do that well on your very first day!
You got suspended, all because of me...
I'm sorry, Sakai...
I don't know what to say
I...
Huh? About what?

I know that if I make a living off this, it'll only be harder and harder...
I stuck with Junko... by thinking of it as training...
What? Oh, that. Nah, I was just blowing off steam.
And when I finish up, it's like what I've done is a miracle. The bad thoughts just disappear...
I know it's really stupid... but I really find it fun...
Plus, when I start creating, I'm so zoned in, I don't even have time to care about Junko...
I finally woke up, when you told me to.
I felt bad for the clothes that were born to shelter me from bad things...
But... I needed to get away...

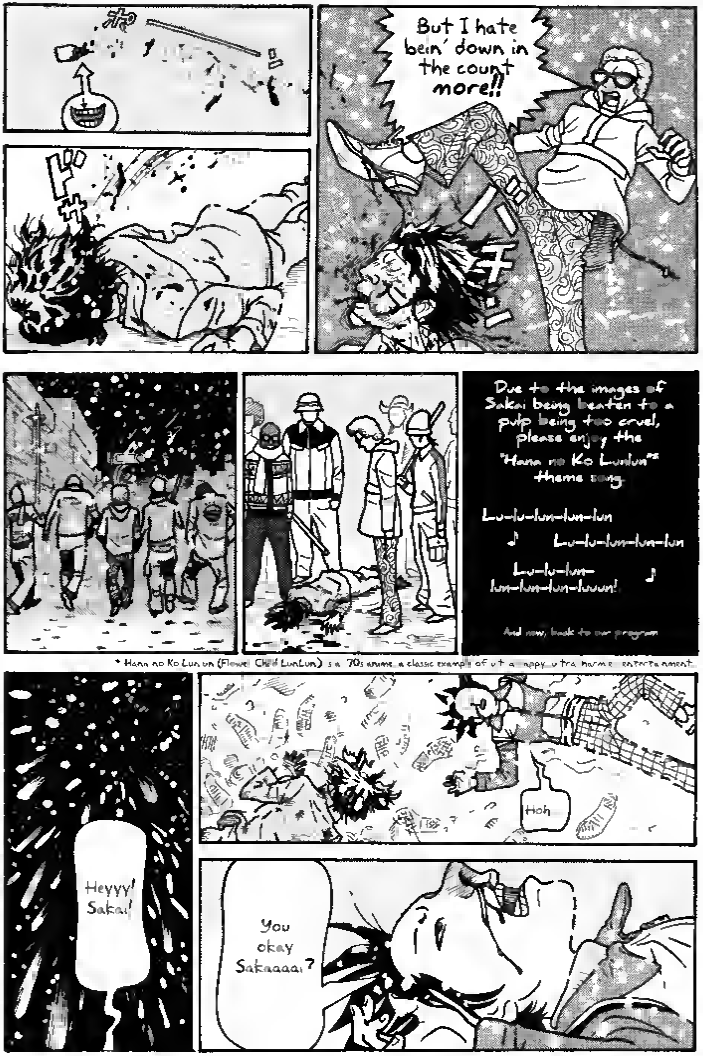
I realized it was time for the next step...
But inside, I was really happy... Thanks.
I know I told you to bug off...
Oh God, what kind of face is that?! You gotta keep it together in these scenes, man!
Ke he he
Kehehehe, well! When you put it that way, I feel a bit better, I guess!

That was the first we ever heard Gogh say so much at one time.
Sakai had that idiot face he wears whenever he gets in a certain mood
And it started to seep into us!
It felt like her words were a geyser that had just broken free from the earth
I will.
Add in the snow and it makes for one special night, doesn't it?!
Thank you so much, you two.
Hey, no prob!
Come see the show!
These clothes are gonna knock some socks off!
We'll be the best-dressed band there!
Seeya
Bye

Hey, Sakai.
And then we'll launch right into an acoustic version of "Assault Blues," right from the top!
So you play this really plaintive riff on the guitar, and I'll come out like Akihiro Miwa!*
*Akihiro Miwa: a very effeminate male actor and cabaret singer. He also played Moro the wolf god in Mononoke Hime.
Bingo
Hmm?
Admit it. You fell for Gogh.
?
THUMP THUMP
CRASH
What... Can you see it in my face?
It would win Best Love-struck Sap-o-rama.

ゴ
Aagh!
ガクン
Sakai!!
バラ
!!!
バラ
Who the hell are you?!
Wh-wh-
ドガッ
ボッ
ドッ
...
ガキ

ドタ
フラ
Totally slipped and fell on my ass....
ハア
ハア
ハア
ハア
Whatcha lookin' at me like that for?
"How dare you gang up on me like that?"
No kiddin'.
It's makin' me sick of myself.
Takada


But I hate bein' down in the count more!!
Due to the images of Sakai being beaten to a pulp being too cruel, please enjoy the "Hana no Ko LunLun" theme song.
Lu-lu-lun-lun-lun
Lu-lu-lun-lun-lun
Lu-lu-lun-lun-lun-lun-lun-luuun!
And now, back to our program
Heyyy! Sakai!
You okay Sakaaaai?
Hoh

* Hana no Ko LunLun (Flower Child LunLun) is a 70's anime, a classic example of what unhappy, ultra harmful entertainment

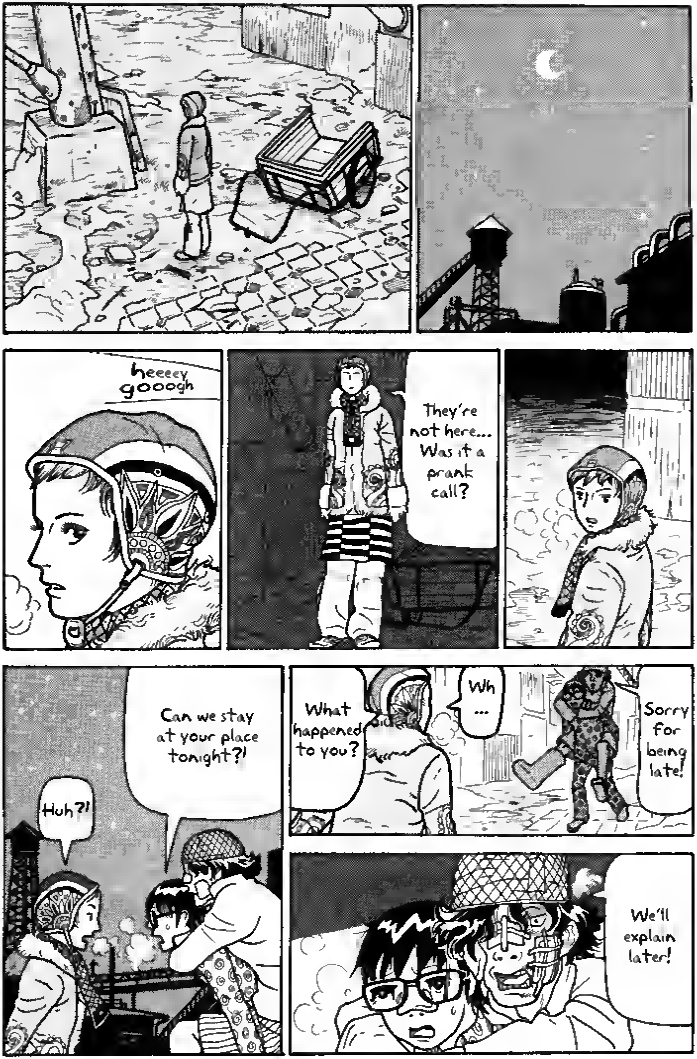
Where are you going?
Whoa... hey
Huh? Saka...
Saka!!
Wait!
Hey!

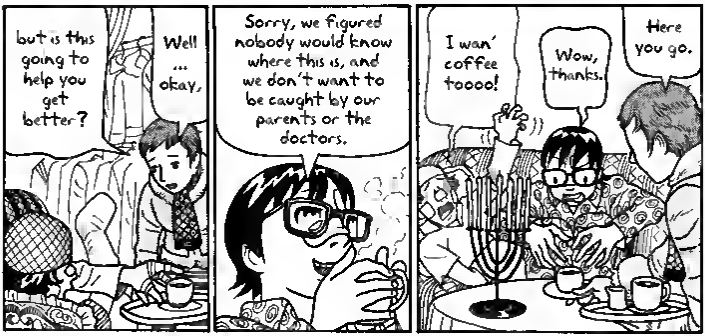
Hey!!
Where are you going?!
Not that way!!
Don't go there!!
PANT PANT PANT PANT
PANT PANT PANT PANT
YOU CAN'T!!

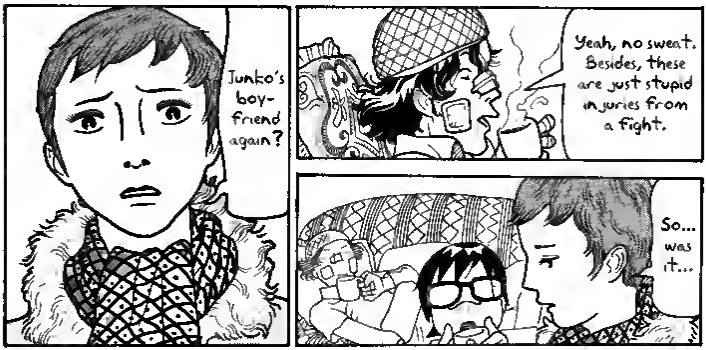
Jump
!
Hup ...
Here we go...
Hoh
Like a baby chick!
Listen to you peeping and whistling.
Urrrgh
Not even I can really remember how we got to the hospital
Shit ...
There go the costumes.
Ugh God my legs are shaking
Ooof, this is gonna suck

Sasuga Hospital
石満
Oh no, mine too.
I can't believe what my foolish boy has done...
Shoji! Sakai needs his rest, so I don't want you bothering him!
Well, I'm going now. And don't you cause trouble for poor little Shoji!
Keh! Old bitch.
Don't cause trouble for me, foolish boy.
Boy, your mom sure got stuck with a hellraiser.

to hear us play onstage.
I think God really doesn't want
...
Sighhh. You just never know what's gonna happen in life, do you?
Shoji ...
Tell them Moozmuz got bit by wild dogs and can't play.
Most unfortunate
I'm gonna call the organizer.
Huh?
This time, I was the one who felt as though he had been grabbed by the hair.
You really think we can't do it ...?


heeeey gooogh
They're not here... Was it a prank call?
Sorry for being late!
Wh ...
What happened to you?
We'll explain later!
Can we stay at your place tonight?!
Huh?!


but is this going to help you get better?
Well ... okay.
Sorry, we figured nobody would know where this is, and we don't want to be caught by our parents or the doctors.
I wan' coffee toooo!
Wow, thanks.
Here you go.


Junko's boy-friend again?
Yeah, no sweat. Besides, these are just stupid injuries from a fight.
So... was it...

choo!
Heh...
...
We were beaten up by some sumo thugs!
No, no.
Agh, ouch.
Thanks a ton.
Sorry, I don't have a heater. I'll bring some blankets.
Being in this band is like, the only proof we were even at school.
It's the end of our 3-year span.
The show?
Huh?

...
It would suck hardcore! A fate worse than death!
You said it!
It's like having your last meal brought out and then taken away before you can eat it.
If we don't play this gig...
I know that feeling...
I know...
Pa ha ha ha ha ha!
PFF
?
I wish that I could end things with a bang...
I'm jea-lous...
I don't miss school...
But I feel like dropping out now, there's something unfinished left in my heart...

...
You're in on the session, babe!
That's the idea, Gogh! You're participating with us, as our costume designer!
You can still eat that last bite with us!
Hey, don't get too cool on us now.
S...
Sakai...

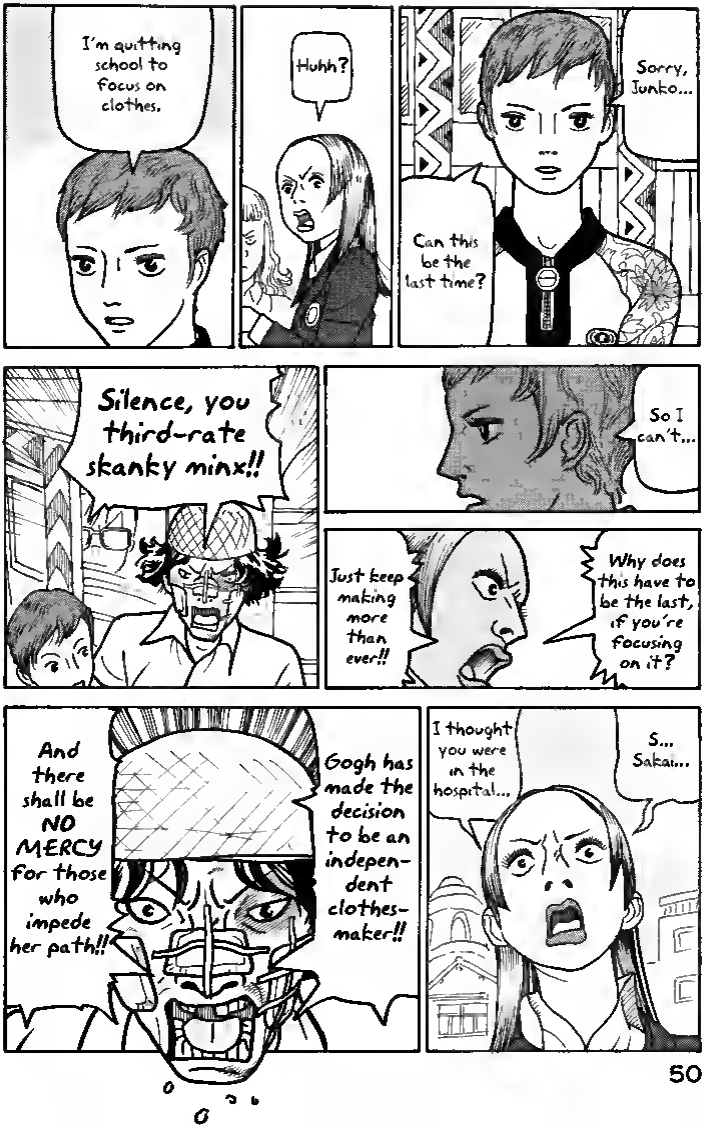
Takada and his goons totally ripped up the clothes we bought from you, so...
Oh right, we forgot to mention!
So! Could you make us new costumes? Ones just for the show...
Whoops...
Oh yeah...
You weren't supposed to say that part...
I should have known...
I'm sorry...
...
No getting the blues!!
Gogh!
...

Gotta put your gear into happy, and get itchy with us!
C'mon! You're a member of the Moozmuz now!
We can't put on a good show tomorrow if you're blue!
Get that smile on your face!
Wahaha, that's the spirit!
aren't you in pain?
y...
You're right!
Yeah.
That is a bona fide, gold-plated, million-dollar idiot's face!!
Just look at that smile!

Iron
Awe
Shock
F+
Pick
Turns out our Gogh is a woman of fire, as well!

Holy!
How are they? Did I go a bit overboard...?
I'm like the king of the land of dreams or some shit!!
I'm a swindler from below the equator
Well, I'll get busy on some other stuff, too.
Thank you, ma'am!
Regal, but retarded! Just like me!
It's perfect!
Shucks...
Long live Gogh!!
Thank you, thank you! Now Moozmuz is ready for the next step!

What are you doing staying home from school?
Answer the door already! God!
Oh... sorry.
Today's your deadline!
Gogh, are you in there?!
There, that's good.
This is th...
Here.
You better not tell me the outfit I wanted isn't ready!
Nope.
Don't forget mine, too!
Next I want...
Hmm... not bad, I suppose.

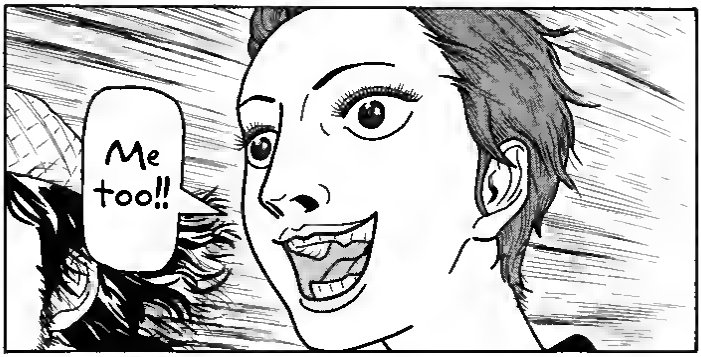

I'm quitting school to focus on clothes.
Huhh?
Sorry, Junko...
Can this be the last time?
Silence, you third-rate skanky minx!!
So I can't...
Just keep making more than ever!!
Why does this have to be the last, if you're focusing on it?
And there shall be NO MERCY for those who impede her path!!
Gogh has made the decision to be an independent clothes-maker!!
I thought you were in the hospital...
S... Sakai...

You may make all requests through me.
I am Sakai, Ms. Gogh's manager.
Japan has a capitalist economy! When you want clothes, you come and PAY for them!
What does any of this have to do with you?!
Like hell I will! What's with you, anyway?
The Gogh Brand and Moozmuz share the same destiny!!
Just about everything, I'm afraid!
Yeah, let's go!
Sakai! Let's get going!
Are you crazy?! I don't even understand what you're saying.
Keep your eyes open. One day we'll stride atop the entire world!

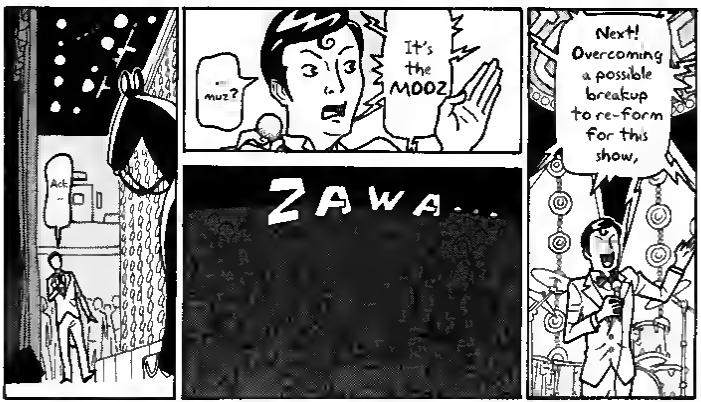
Don't get thrown off!
Yeah, totally!
Huh...? I'm riding, too?
To the Rio de Janeiro of my life!!
Sally forth! To the Las Vegas of mine heart!
Onward! To the Shamballa of my soul!!
I'm embarrassed just watching them!
Have they no shame?!

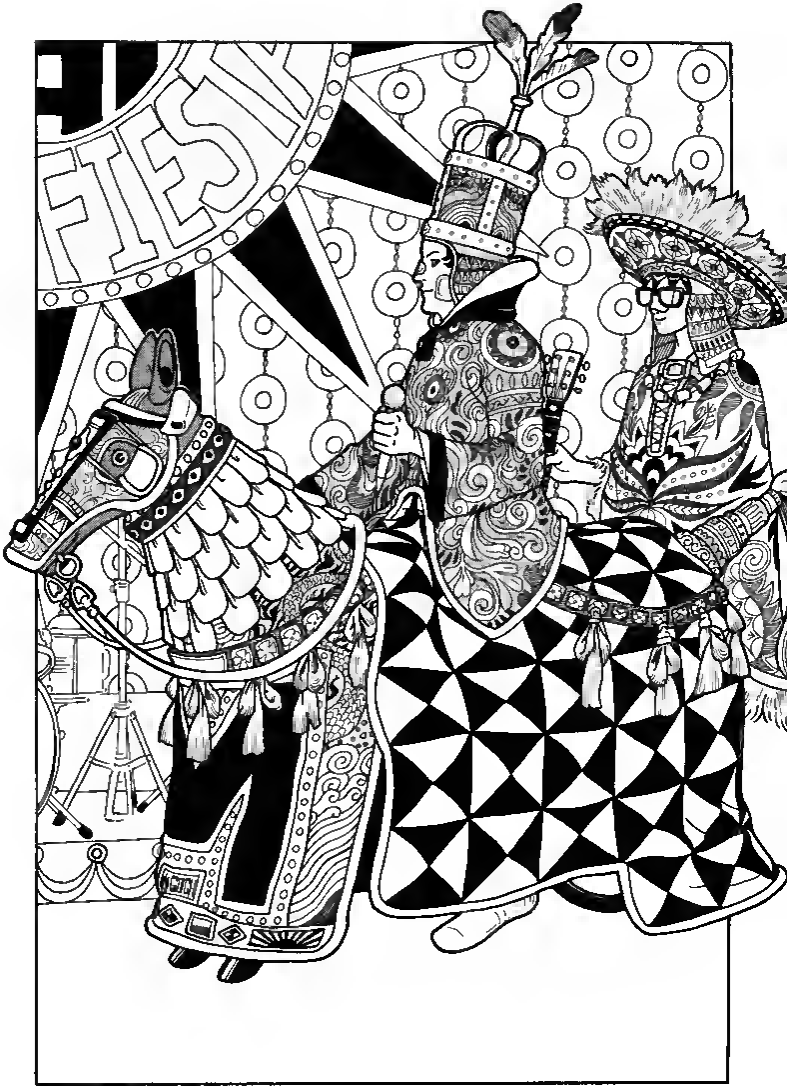
No blues! Get happy!!
Remember, Gogh!!
Why does this have to be the last?! be the last?! the last?! the last
Don't worry!! No matter what happens, we're always with you!!
Yeahhh!
Right, Shoji?!

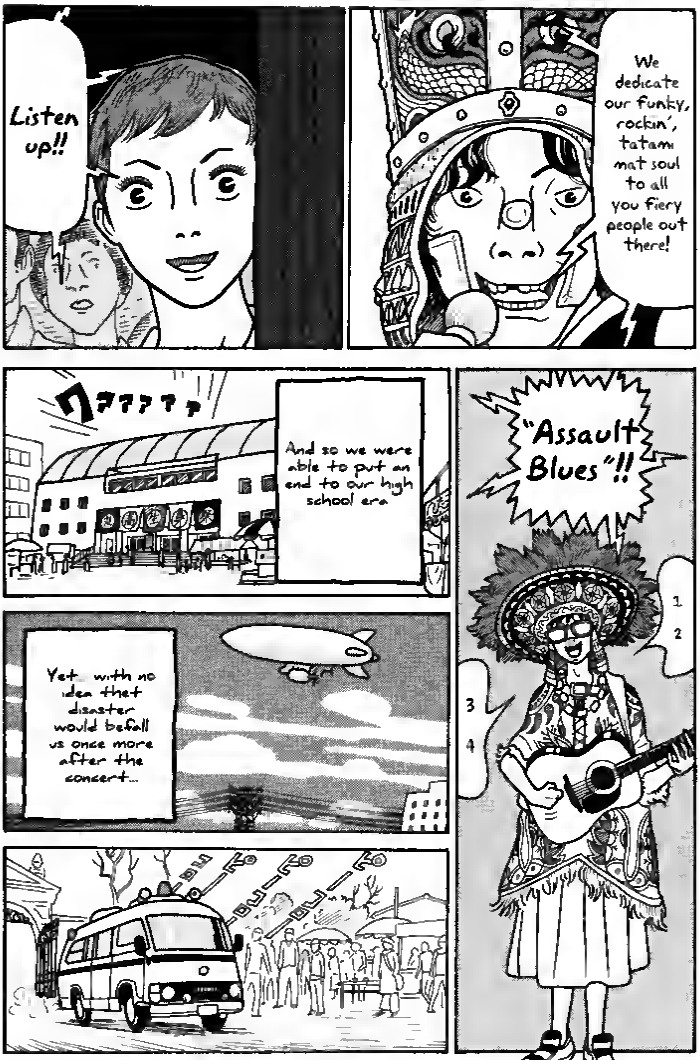
But Sakai, don't say "us"!
Go ahead and say it's because you're with her, you idiot!!
Ha ha ha, how do you like that?! We're so stupid, we're cool!
Make waaay!
But you know what? This is the first time in my life
Gaaack! There's that lifeless old dump!
I can see the school ahead!!
Yeah.
I've ever been so pumped to go to school!!

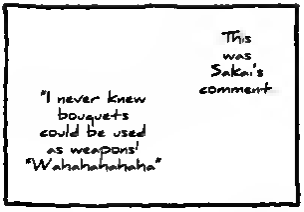

Me too!!

Yeah, way to go!
Fabulous! That was the Ponz' powerful performance!!
Let's send them off to Saturn with a round of applause!!
Your fly was open, dude!
Well it didn't kill me!


Ack...
...muz?
It's the MOOZ
ZAWA...
Next! Overcoming a possible breakup to re-form for this show,


FIESTA


Listen up!!
We dedicate our funky, rockin', tatami mat soul to all you fiery people out there!
And so we were able to put an end to our high school era
"Assault Blues"!!
1
2
3
4
Yet... with no idea that disaster would befall us once more after the concert...



※*REPEAT & FADE*

DE

END

CHAPTER 1 END

CHAPTER 2

T-SHIRTS THAT SMELL LIKE GOOD ROAST

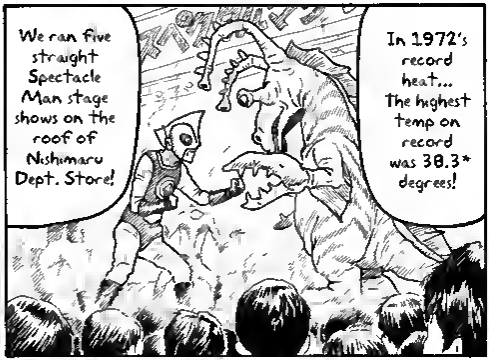
But for some reason, we're not ourselves.
Summer's doing its thing, being summer
It's a few months since our graduation from high school
But the heat of the summer has sapped that will somewhat
Good morning
There was a kind of hellfire behind our declaration to carry the band forward after school was over
©1998 PRINTED IN JAPAN

I found a job where I get to study tons of music for free... Well, technically, for a salary.
My partner, being more of the "live performance" type,
This is nice!
NWEEOOEEOEE!!
Insisted on showing people their dreams directly.

Bear, bear, bear!
What is this, a bear?
All home and kitchen tools and utensils on sale, today only!!
Gimme a balloooooon!
Hey, say some-thin', bear!
Bring your kids, we're handing out dream balloons!!
Say "Mr. Bear, may I have a balloon?"
Ask nicely, hun.
Mr. Bear, can I have a balloon?!
It's ...
Too ...

ビシ
ビシ
ガバ
HOLY!!
Urph!
ギャー!
I can't handle this!! You take over!!
Hey... What are you doing?!
Aaagh!
Rather be a human than a bear, dude!!
Whoooof!
Of course, handing out dreams is harder than you'd think.

That's tough... And Sakata ran off and quit, too. Said the heat rash got into his brain or something...
You're the only kid I've got left.


We ran five straight Spectacle Man stage shows on the roof of Nishimaru Dept. Store!
In 1972's record heat... The highest temp on record was 38.3* degrees!

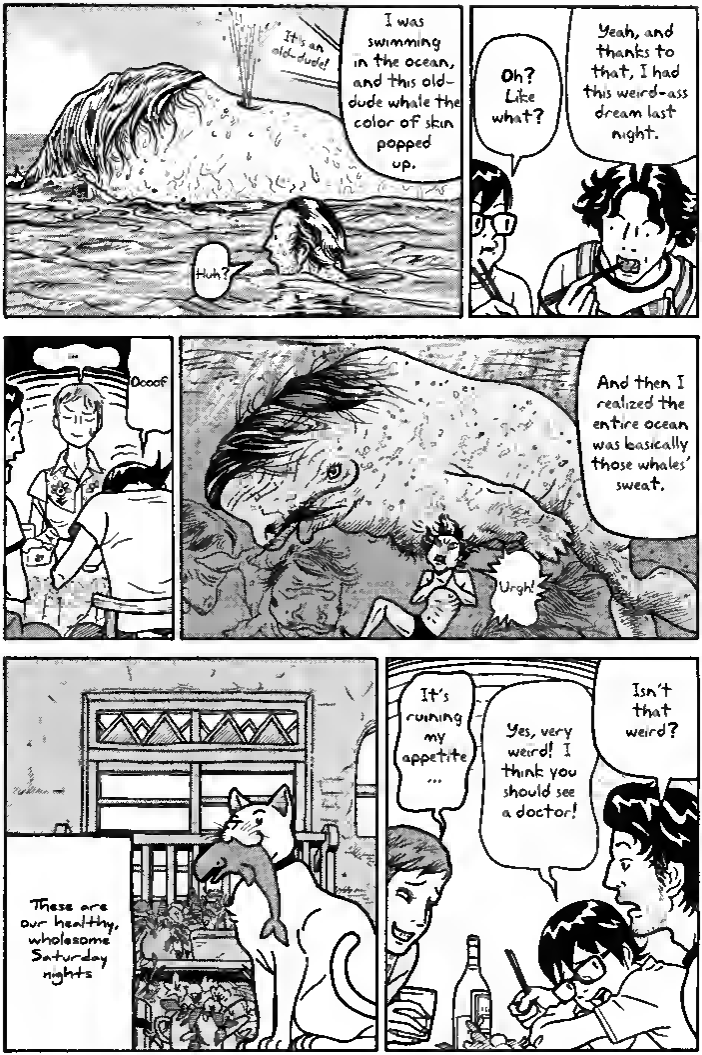
* 101 Fahrenheit

Ain't it? That's what I said!
You ran away?! Jesus, that terrible!
Look, I'm sorry, man!
Boss!
Yeah, the little weakling's hanging his head back here.
Is Sakai back yet?
Good evening!
Dear Mr.Muraz,
After a strict judging of your entry we have decided to reject it. Please do not let this stop you from making music in the future
TKO Records
"Come On Newcomers! Contest
Judging Committee
...
Huh?
Here... We got this.
...
Should we throw in the towel and start wearing makeup? We'll be the first Japanese visual-kei blues band!
That's all the places we sent the demo...
They just let a big one get away!
I'm just thinking
Be serious, dammit!
It was a joke!

An event to keep us from being true weaklings!
We're here Gogh!
There is a scheduled event that takes up our Saturday nights and Sundays every week
Welcome back!
I couldn't decide on the colors, so I went ahead and used them all, and now you see the result.
Wow, look at this place!
It's a mess, isn't it?

This girl, nicknamed Gogh, makes clothes by herself and sells them on the street.
Well, start off with...
So...
What should we do?
SILKSCREEN
TARARARA
We assist her and provide meager funds, which I guess makes us business partners.
Ooh!
Yeahhh!
If this sells well, wanna go for yakiniku?

me
ODEN
カルビ
と
ロース
It's gotta be something people will wear now.
Think of the heat.
Not too exciting, but I think customers will go for it.
Tomorrow's main dish will be t-shirts.
Yeah. But hey, I sell dreams, so it's a labor of love.
How's work going? Is it tough?
And sweat.
Yeah! I'd keep wearing these shirts no matter how sweaty they get!

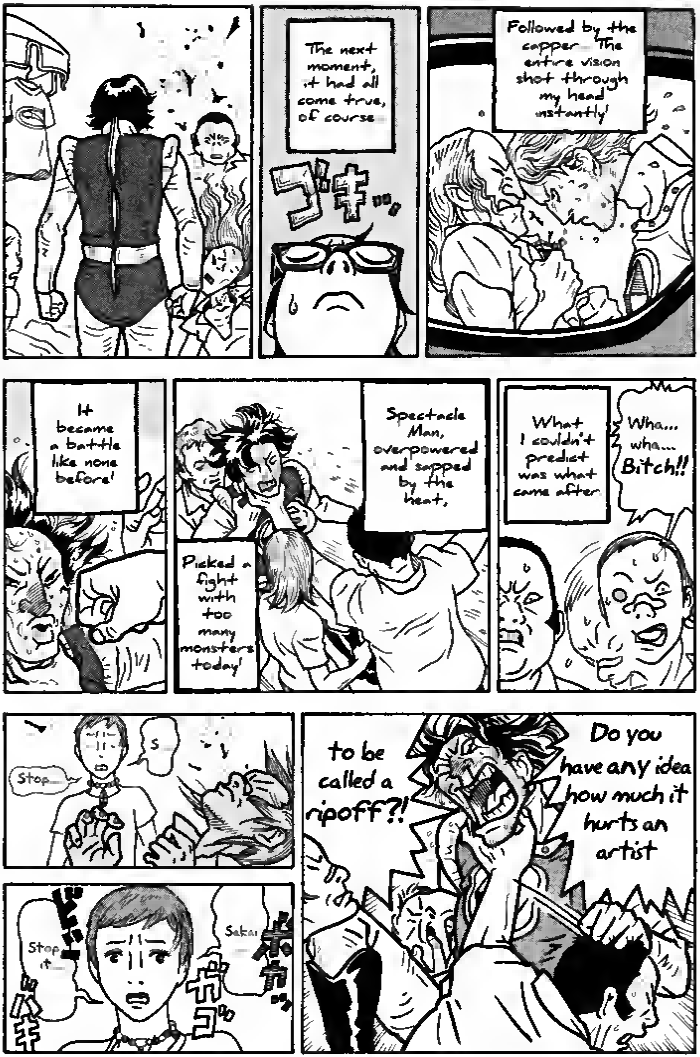

It's an old-dude!
I was swimming in the ocean, and this old-dude whale the color of skin popped up.
Huh?
Yeah, and thanks to that, I had this weird-ass dream last night.
Oh? Like what?
Ocoof
And then I realized the entire ocean was basically those whales' sweat.
Urgh!
These are our healthy, wholesome Saturday nights
It's ruining my appetite ...
Yes, very weird! I think you should see a doctor!
Isn't that weird?

Hey, take it easy, or you'll be knocked out the rest of the day!
This individual training is gonna help me conquer the summer, hahaha!
Heat is nothing to me!
I'm Thai!
You aren't gonna leave me and head into that career, are you?
Ummmm, I'm getting worried now...
I just don't like giving up!!

Visit us again!
Thank you very much.
No, I'm not!
He's panting!
Spectacle Man sings Mooznuz!
The performance of dreams!
Oh!
Sakai! Let's get started.
Well, Gogh? About time?
Yeah! Go ahead.
You gotta decide beforehand, man.
What should we play?
It's become routine for us to play at the stand
Tape Single!
MOOZMUZ
looks like that T-shirt...

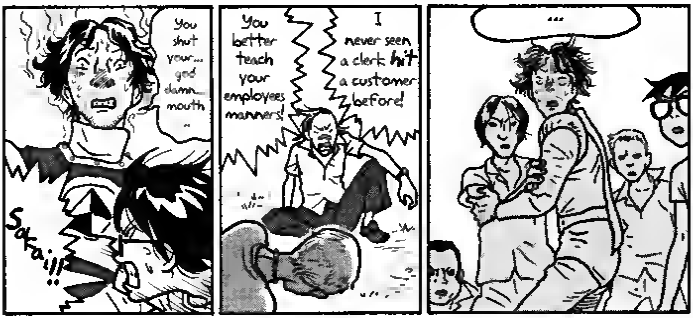
Maybe it's a knock-off...
Their's was cheaper, too...
Umm, miss, we're not that kind of store. We don't do that.
Sakai! It's okay.
...
I'm still learning, so please tell me if it looks too much like other people's.
Ha ha
They found us
Hey, what's this place?
Another indie t-shirt shop?
Wel... come.

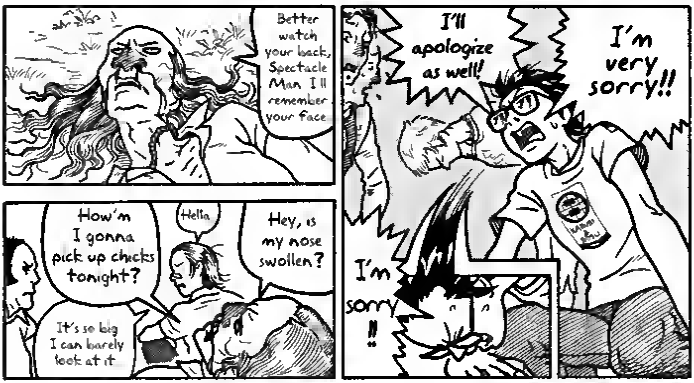
Yeah, they did.
...
Hey! Didn't that store have one like this?
ODEM
Sakai
Lotta stores like this around.
There's one by the station.
Oh yeah, that one's tight.
There's something about him and jackass teenagers... A chemical reaction.
At this instant, I became a prophet!!
Did you rip them off, baby?
Ha ha ha ha.
Whoa, that was so rude, dagg
First would come this.
And then this.


The next moment, it had all come true, of course
ゴチ
Followed by the copper The entire vision shot through my head instantly!
It became a battle like none before!
Picked a fight with too many monsters today!
Spectacle Man, overpowered and sapped by the heat,
What I couldn't predict was what came after
Wha... wha... Bitch!!
Stop...
S
Stop it
Saka
ボカ
ポコ
to be called a ripoff?!
Do you have any idea how much it hurts an artist

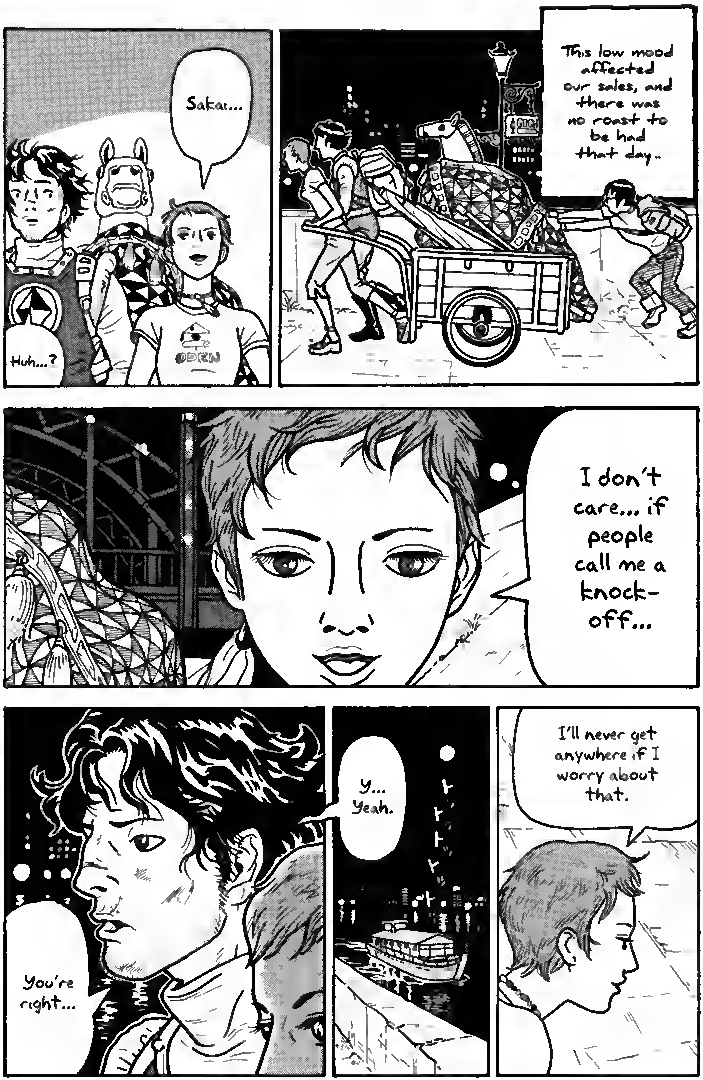
Oh...
...
ガッ
Sakai, stop!!
タラー!
...
Gogh!!
My partner has been incredibly rude!!
I'm sorry, everyone!
I... I'm sorry!
You okay, Gogh?

I am very, very sorry!!
I will do my utmost to make sure nothing like this happens again!


You shut your... god damn... mouth...
Sakai!!
You better teach your employees manners!
I never seen a clerk hit a customer before!
...


Better watch your back, Spectacle Man I'll remember your face
I'll apologize as well!
I'm very sorry!!
How'm I gonna pick up chicks tonight?
It's so big I can barely look at it
Hella
Hey, is my nose swollen?
I'm sorry!!

Fuck it, let's go.
Peh!
Shouji, what should I do?
It's not my problem!!
Uh...
Gogh... I'm sorry...
...


Sakai...
Huh...?
This low mood affected our sales, and there was no roast to be had that day.
I don't care... if people call me a knock-off...
You're right...
y... Yeah.
トトトト
I'll never get anywhere if I worry about that.

I was accused of being a ripoff...
So I guess I still have more to learn!
We're both kids!
I'm sorry...
I just went nuts, like some kind of kid...
...
Looks like it.
There it is!
One other thing kids do is act fast! We headed out for the marketplace!

Yeah...
Let's see just how similar they are.
Thank you!
Yes, all together.
And you made these?
Look! Over there!
Muh?
Saka!
What's wrong?
What?!
Yeah ...
And after she said... she didn't care...
Gogh?!
!!

It was an expression we had never seen from Gogh before.
I wonder what she's thinking...
?
I didn't know why she nodded... It could have been "I win!" or "I can do this!" or even "I know what dinner will be tonight!"
...
...

Not even we could call out and talk to her!
But today, there was something like bloodlust emitting from her
Gogh looked... like a freaking samurai...
Huh...?
...
Garden of Eden
Does it look good on me?
...
But what's the big deal?
I guess they are similar...
She's something, man...
She's a level above us.
Yeah...
No... At least five levels of roast above us.

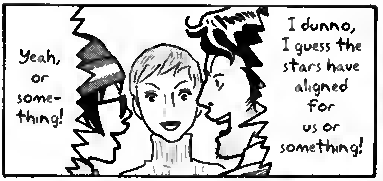
We've begun a cohabitation that we prefer to call "unlimited training camp"
Did you sleep in your suit again? Oh Christ.
Get up, man. It's noon already.
Moozmuz
Pull it together! We're getting ticks.
An attempt to tie in our everyday lives with the band
What the hell is he dreaming about?
Eeugh... What a creep.
Aaagh

Get up already!!
ゲキ
HA HA HA ... HA.

Why can't I be allowed to sleep in when I don't have work?!
What the hell is it, already?!
EEEEK!!
?
Huh?
...

Urr-rgh
Don't step on me when I'm havin' a good dream
I can still go back... Back to the womb..
Mail's here.
Oh! Thanks

Notice of 1st Stage Acceptance
Dear Moozmuz,
Thank you very much for applying to our open band au
dition contest, "The Rock Soul That Rules the World."
The tape you sent to this contest HAS PASSED OUR
involve a LIVE STUDIO PERFORMANCE
on the following date
We sent out so many tapes, we'd forgotten about this one!
And we never thought we'd make it, anyway!!
Ooooo~ hohohoho!
You did it!!


Yeah, or something!
I dunno, I guess the stars have aligned for us or something!

TAR
All-lead-singer, all-lead-guitarist supergroup of leaders
It's a pretty well-recognized and prestigious contest, too. The Thousand All Raisins got their start there!
Oh, wow!

Oooh-hohoho-hohoho!!

What kind of look should we be going for this time?

We haven't done this since that culture festival... holy cow!
Yeah, we'll need your help!

I'll have to put some effort into the costumes, then.
Hmm-mm.

So I studied my ass off, and got into this college, right?

Right! I was thinking about this on the way over.

At least, that's how it went in the dream. What do you think of that idea?
That's what you laughed about?
Ha ha ha ha ha
A magical fairyland college where they developed musical spirits, and I sang and danced with all the course instructors!
Oh, hang on. Will this work for you, Gogh?
Oh
Aren't you really busy right now?
...
Yeah, we'll discuss it
What? Not good enough?
Well, we can talk it over!
DING ♪ DONG
Oh!
Yeah, I feel bad ...
Gee, thanks ...
Don't be silly!
I'm fine! I can put in separate extra effort for Moozmuz stuff!
Just leave it to me!

Welcome!
She started filling special orders for individual customers to add to the usual Sunday park shop.
Gogh really seemed to be on a roll, lately.
Welcome in!
Hi there, Gogh!
Oh, that's perfect!
Maybe I should ask for a matching outfit!
This extra business was a hit, too.
...
Thank you! Take care.
Thank you very much.

As we felt we were stagnating and falling behind Gogh...
Word up! It's tearin' time!!
All right! I think it's time to tear into a new ditty!!
Laws of the Moozi
Find an idea for a song every single da
tice voice training
at least once every three
and converse in the morn
ongs you find
ats!
Peace & love, man
split the royalties down the middl
We created these rules to keep us sharp
But there was one last unspoken rule we kept to ourselves.
Laws of the Moozmuz!
Sound off!
"Catch up to Gogh!!"
And it was...

EEEEEEEE!!
EEEEEEE!
Always practice voice training!
Find an idea for a song, every single day!
Hmmm hm-hmmm
Coming!
Sakai, you're on!
Play together at least once every three days!
Let's change this to a D minor 7
Eat breakfast and converse in the morning!
N
N
Neo-oty-ugh!
R- Red Dragon
Be-holder
B
Learn from cats!
Meowww!
Share good songs you find!
Isn't it good?
Yeah
If we get rich, split the royalties down the middle!!!
I know, I know!
I'm serious
No violence! Peace & love man!
Don't let this happen!

GOGH
couturiere
He's really dedicated.
So Sakai was working up through yesterday, too...
Yeah, he works hard
Thanks!
Piping hot.

Ha ha, well, if you say so.

People show their greatest hidden talent when they're busiest, you know.

I think he's putting a little too much into his day job.

I wanted to have the whole day to practice, today.

I am a dreamin' schemin' busy-busy man, don't got no time for fixin' my soooocks

I hope some hidden talent's gonna make an appearance.

We're gonna practice our new song tonight.

Heh! You wanna hear the hook?

You have a new song? I want to hear it!

C'mon, let's practice! I am a dreamin' schemin', 1-2-3 go!

Noo-ooo... I'm too shy!

What? Noo-ooo...

Hey, I know! You sing it, and I'll harmonize along with you!

Hahaha, it's great! Let me guess, Sakai wrote the lyrics.

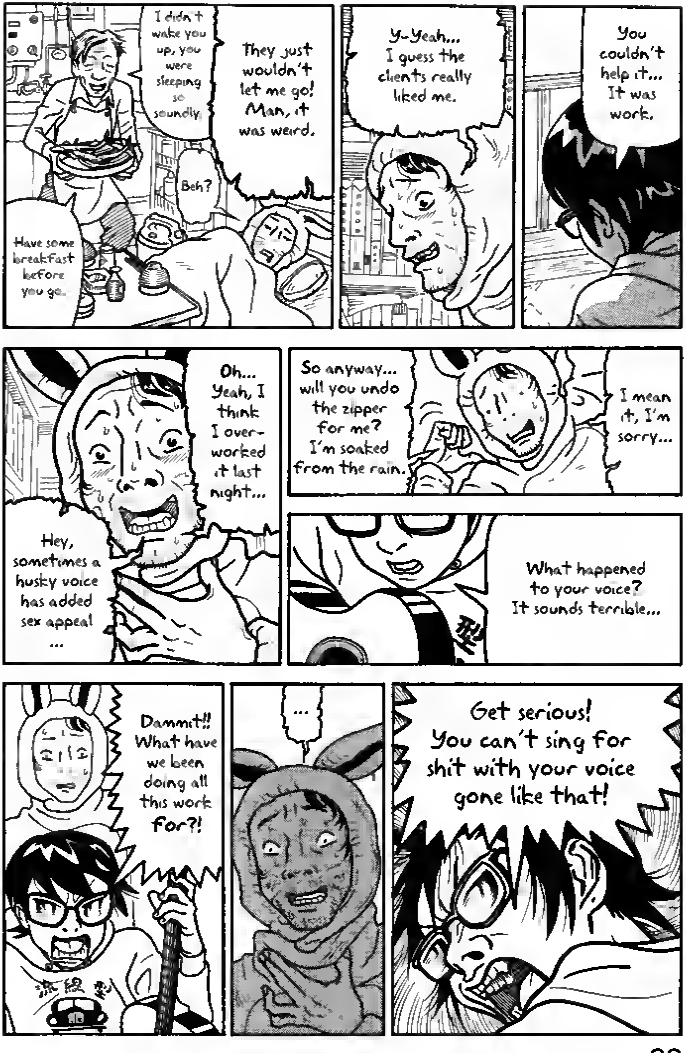
What do you think?

YAY!
Let's get started with my favorite! "Blow, Don't Suck! Blowgun Rou-Rou-Roulette!!"
And let me tell you, we are gonna burn the house down!!
Good evening, Shibakari Construction! Thanks for inviting me out tonight!
Thank you, people... Thanks for coming to my layoff party...
This is going to be goodbye ...
Mr. Machida... C'mon, let's enjoy ourselves.
...
Give him a hand, people! Give it up!!
Go on... Give it a try!
Let's have the man of the hour kick things off!!

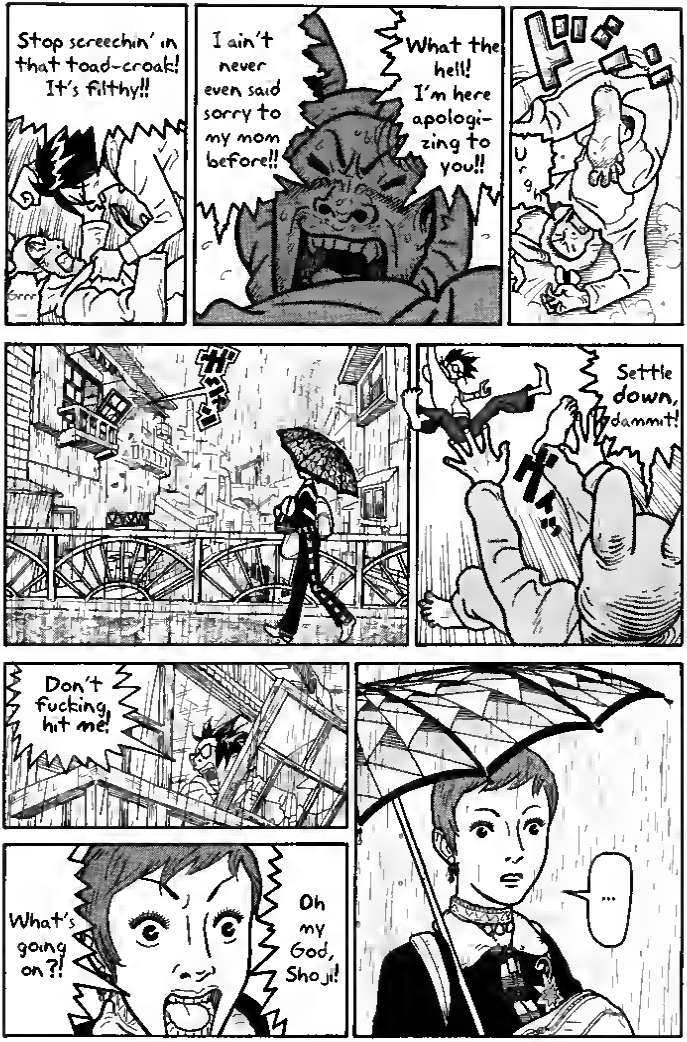
What?
...that's real weird. They left the bar quite a while ago...
MICHIZURE HOUSE
PUPPETS
MASCOT SHOWS
WE SELL "DREAMS"
Welcome!
You know, Shoji.
Once people strike out on their own, their friends are like their parents.
God, that dumb schmuck. Where could he be?
I told him to take it easy, 'cause you've got to play tomorrow...
You'll never last with guys like that, unless you give them plenty of room.
Ha ha...
Don't give him a hard time. Pretend you're his dad; be understanding.

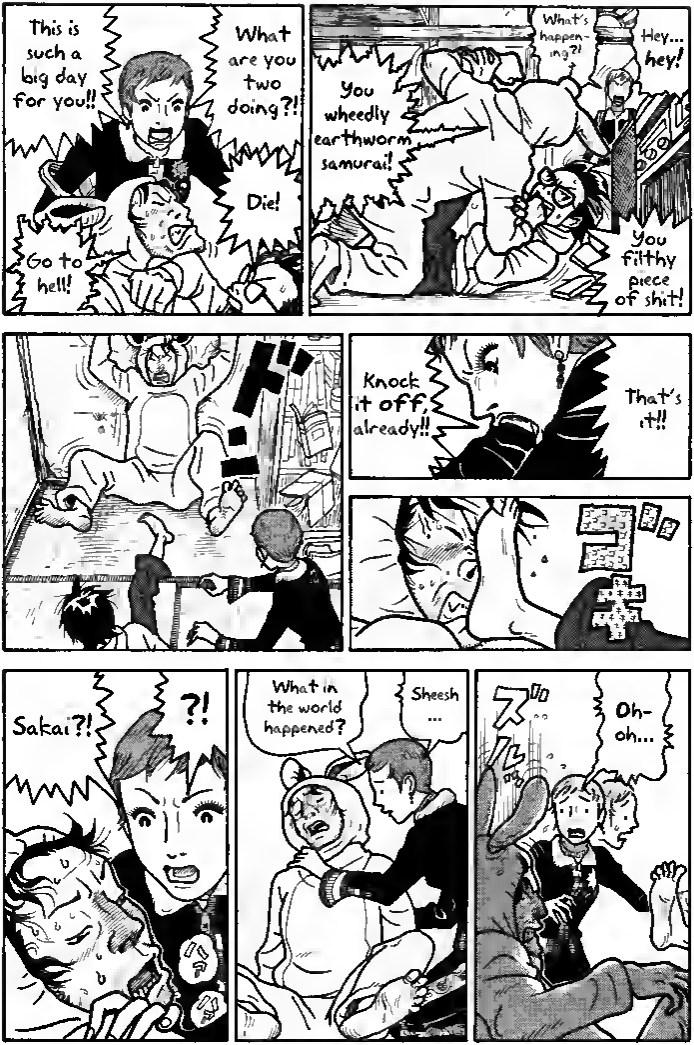
I kind of have a very important promise with a friend to keep...
Dooby shooby doo! Shabbadow! Sing with me, Sakai!!
Uh Mr. Machida
Oh no you don't!
Look man, I gotta go...
Shabba dooby dah!

Ahem
Shoji...?
I'm hoooome...
I'm sorry, man... Really sorry. I just couldn't get away...
...


I didn't wake you up, you were sleeping so soundly.
They just wouldn't let me go! Man, it was weird.
Huh?
Have some breakfast before you go.
Y-Yeah... I guess the clients really liked me.
You couldn't help it... It was work.
Oh... Yeah, I think I over-worked it last night...
Hey, sometimes a husky voice has added sex appeal ...
So anyway... will you undo the zipper for me? I'm soaked from the rain.
I mean it, I'm sorry...
What happened to your voice? It sounds terrible...
Dammit!! What have we been doing all this work for?!
...
Get serious! You can't sing for shit with your voice gone like that!

Let's practice up until the last minute! I might get my voice back...
C'mon man, don't be like it's all over before it's even begun!
I can smell the beer on your breath, still!!!
Oh, can it!! You're not gonna convince me with that argument!!
A bluesman's got to put himself out on the line, the good and the bad!!
Who cares if I'm boozy and hoarse...?
Don't
!!!
GIVE ME THAT SHIT!!


Stop screechin' in that toad-croak! It's filthy!!
I ain't never even said sorry to my mom before!!
What the hell! I'm here apologizing to you!!
Urgh
Settle down, dammit!
Don't fucking hit me!
What's going on?!
Oh my God, Shoji!
...


This is such a big day for you!!
What are you two doing?!
Die!
Go to hell!
What's happening?!
Hey... hey!
You wheedly earthworm samurai!
You filthy piece of shit!
ド
Knock it off, already!!
That's it!!
ニ
Sakai?!
?!
What in the world happened?
Sheesh ...
ズル
Oh- oh...

ハッ
…
流線型
Shoji!! Sakai's got a hideous fever!!
Wh... What...
You gonna sing on your own...?
Only because he doesn't think about what he's doing!
Idiot!!
Shut up!! You stay here and sleep!!
Thanks for...
the cost-umes...
And keep an eye on him for me, Gogh!
Huh?!

バタン!!
She...
Wait,
So long! Hope you're watching over me from six feet under!!
Sakai ...
Ughh...
Wait up... I'm still going...
Heh! Nice one-liner, ass...

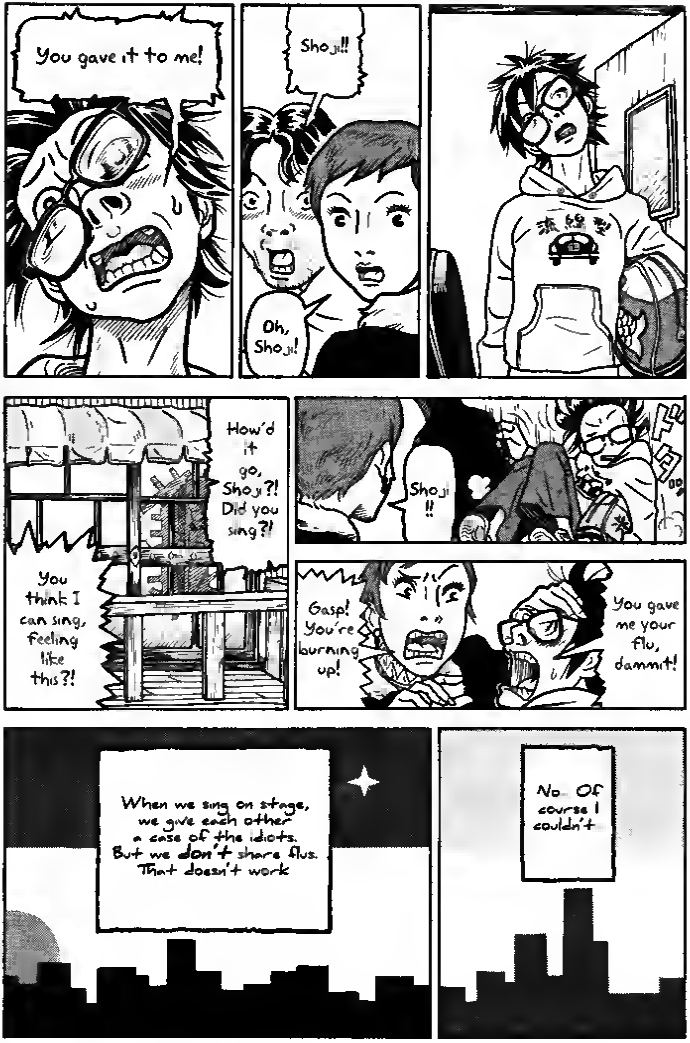
Right this way!
Groups 16 to 20 get ready to rehearse!
Anyone from Moozmuz here?
Uhh, #19... Moozmuz?

...
You shouldn't move... The contest is long over by now...
What time is it?
Gogh
Huh? Oh... um...
Oh.
It would still mean Moozmuz is moving forward.
I wouldn't mind...
...
I wonder if he passed on his own...
Shoji hasn't come back yet...
Heh. It's pathetic... This is what I do when it really counts.
I'll never catch up to you at this rate... even in my dreams.
I really didn't think he was that stubborn.

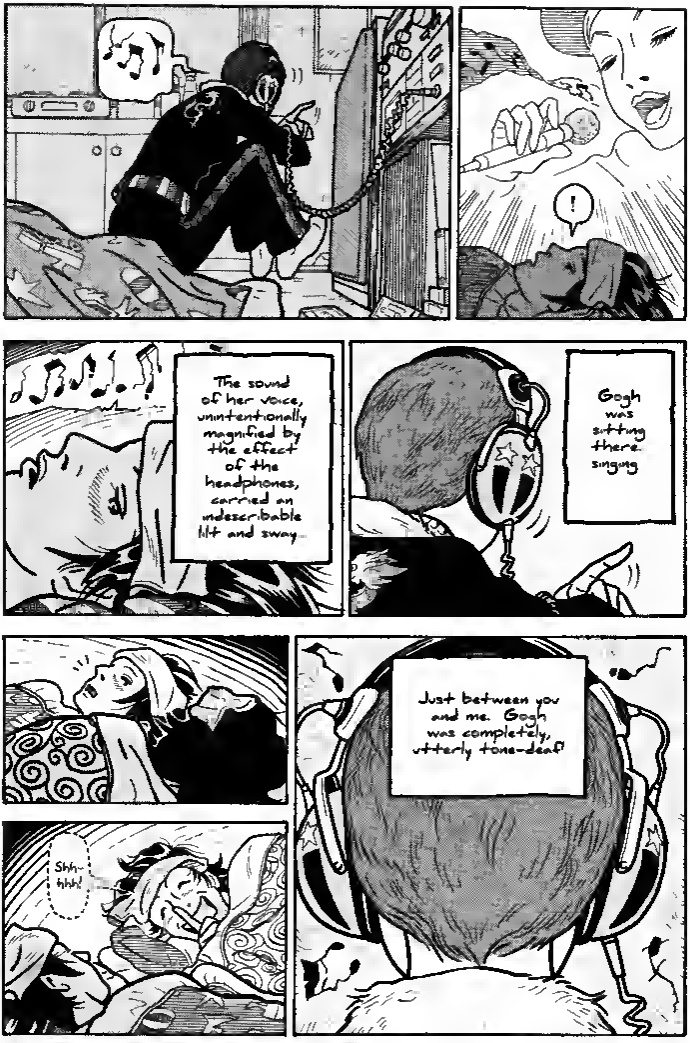
Heheh... and look what happened. You still got our costumes ready.
We know you've got a huge lead on us...
Shoji and I have been in a panic lately...
?
Huh?
I can't write songs...
I can't think of lyrics like you do.
I don't know what you mean... about a "lead"...
...
All I'm doing is everything that I can...
I'd be perfectly happy...
As long as everyone does what they do as best they can...

So... want some tea?

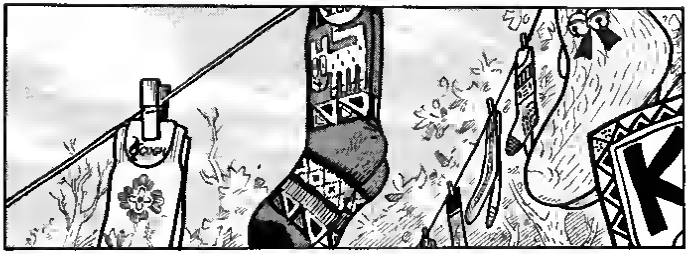
Gogh... I think... I think you're really an amazing, wonderful person!
Tea...?
Got it?
Uh...
Tea... yeah.
Oh... got it.
You, uh... you bored?
Want to hear our tape or something?
Um, sure
ガビーン


You gave it to me!
Shoji!!
Oh, Shoji!
How'd it go, Shoji?! Did you sing?!
You think I can sing, feeling like this?!
Shoji!!
Gasp! You're burning up!
You gave me your flu, dammit!
When we sing on stage, we give each other a case of the idiots. But we don't share flus. That doesn't work
No. Of course I couldn't

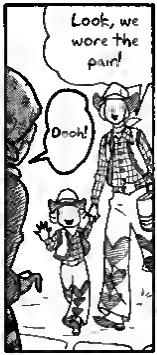
New Band Contest
"Saka..."
What's going on here?
新
コンテスト
"Whoa! She's singing!"
"Gosh..."
"Huh?"
"H... Huh?"


The sound of her voice, unintentionally magnified by the effect of the headphones, carried an indescribable lilt and sway...
Gogh was sitting there singing
Just between you and me. Gogh was completely, utterly tone-deaf!
Shh-hhh!

It's true, it suited us to a T.
But it was a lullaby like no other for the idiot beside me.
I've never heard a song that could raise an itch in the back of my neck that way!!
Busy-busy maaan.
don't got no time for fixin my socks


Gogh
K

Thank you!
You look adorable!
Even Gogh has a weakness, it seems


Look, we wore the pair!
Oooh!

KYTSUSHIN
Hiya Gogh!

Do we tie the neck part like this?
But the truth did give us a small measure of relief

Of course, knowing what it was didn't make our panic disappear,
Thanks for coming!
Howdy, cowgirls!

A little secret of hers
Yeah, that's it!

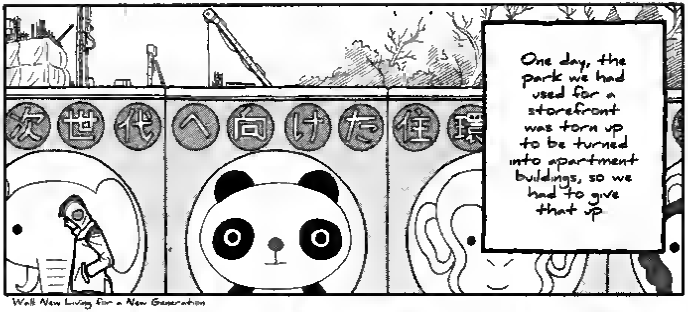
We were able to love Gogh just a bit more than we already did!
Learning this secret made us feel closer than before.
Cool! Wanna hear a new song?
Yeah!
Sing, Meezmuz, sing!
But today, we were filled with a mysterious, benevolent magnanimity
The obnoxious, dreadful feeling of "pane" might be necessary to move forward
A-one, a-two!

CHAPTER 4

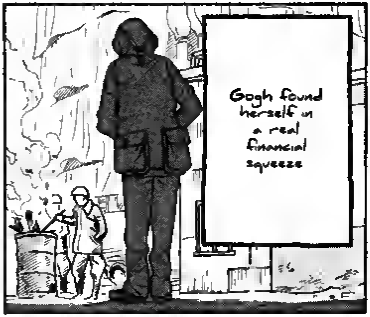
THE IDIOTS COULD NOT SIT BY AND WATCH

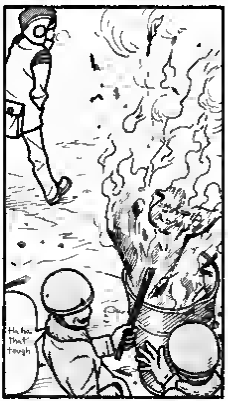
Can I refresh your coffee?
Yes, thank you.
How do you read this character?
Oh, by the way...

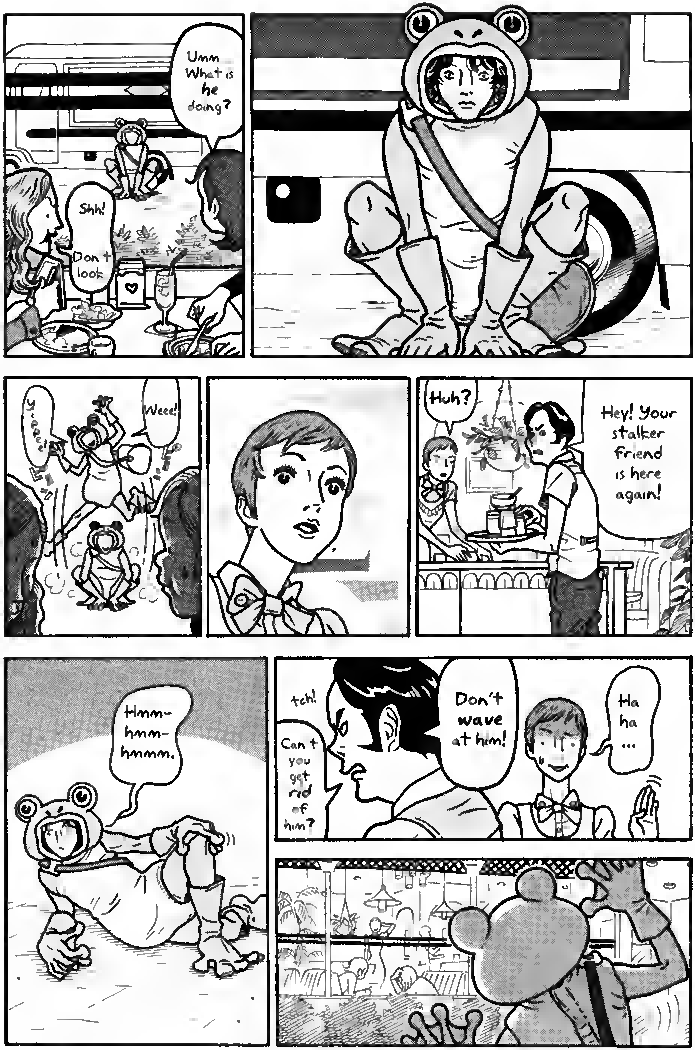
Oboro"? Like... "vague"?
Hmm-mm...
Mm-hmm!
Bye.
Ohh! Of course, Oboro. Thanks.
Gogh's started a part-time job...
Mamma's
Excuse me
Yes!

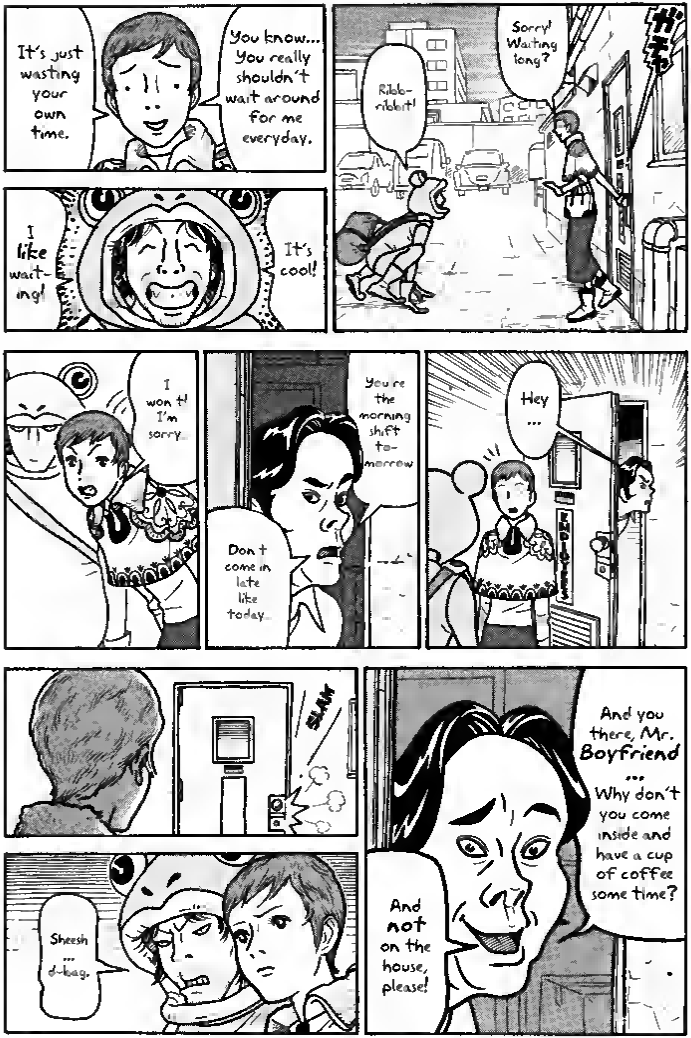

One day, the park we had used for a storefront was torn up to be turned into apartment buildings, so we had to give that up
次世代へ向けた住

Wall: New Living for a New Generation






Umm What is he doing?
Shh! Don't look
Weee!
Huh?
Hey! Your stalker friend is here again!
Hmm-hmm-hmmm.
tch! Can't you get rid of him?
Don't wave at him!
Ha ha ...


It's just wasting your own time.
You know... You really shouldn't wait around for me everyday.
I like wait-ing!
It's cool!
Ribb-ribbit!
Sorry! Waiting long?
I won't! I'm sorry..
You're the morning shift to-morrow
Don't come in late like today..
Hey ...
SLAM
Sheesh ... d-bag.
And you there, Mr. Boyfriend ... Why don't you come inside and have a cup of coffee some time?
And not on the house, please!

You were... late?
Heh.
Last night, I found out I was dozing off and drooling on one of my special orders.
クカ——
クカ——
It's getting pretty tough.
Maybe my parents are right. Maybe I'm being naive.
It's hard, working in your free time!
They're still giving you trouble?
Yep.
I quit school! I started some crazy business! How selfish can I be?! Yadda yadda.
If my clothing thing had hit it off, I could at least back myself up with that...
Hmm

I really wish we could let Gogh just work on her clothes all the time...
You know ...
FAAACK!!
Mmm, yeah, I know.
Totally.
How can I be so pathetic?! All that crap about us being in a co-dependency with her, and what good have we done?!
When her back's against the wall, we haven't done jack shit!!
What was that for?
You scared me!

AWAH! AWAH! AWAH!
Kuhh
Look, just don't yell about it!
You're gonna set off that ...
See?! You woke it up!
Now we're set for another three-hour late night crying exhibition!
Well I didn't decide that was best! My ass itches everyday just thinking about it!
Don't take it out on me
Bah! And that's the best answer your vaunted sense of reason could come up with.
And we decided that this is the best plan for her at the moment.
We've talked plenty about Gogh's situation.
I'm not saying that I want her to be in this situation any more than you do...
But the more we interfere, the worse it is for Gogh, you know?
Bah!

No problem! I just got my paycheck today!
Sorry for making you come in and spend money.
Here you go.
Really?
Uh,
Huh? You got plans?
I was gonna ask
So, umm
So
I found this great place.
You want to go out and get something to eat when you get off?

You can come too, Mr. Boyfriend.
Gerk!
Huh?
Ohh
Well, you see... The rest of the staff is taking me out to dinner to celebrate my hiring...
No, no, you go along and enjoy yourself! It's a good social event for you!
Whad-daya say?
We'll split the bill, and it should be nice and cheap.
Don't want to barge in.
Heh heh! Nah, I'll be cool on my own!
...
Well, you're still invited.
Sakai

I see you grin as you pour me a drink
a smirk and a drink
Aaaah aaaah
a smirk and a drink
PUBLIC PERFORMANCE CAMPAIGN

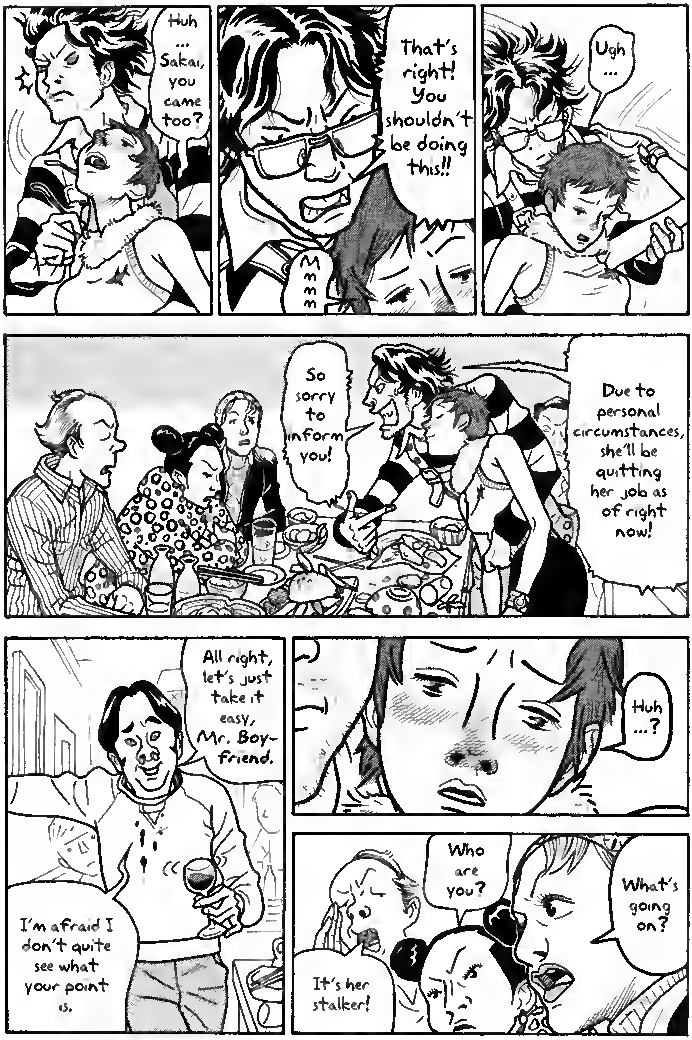
Scarface
Hee heeee
Heh heh, no, you're just fine.
Oooh, am I druu-uunk?
What's your problem, prick?
Eek!

Uh-oh, looks like she's in for a long night ahead of her.
I didn't realize she was such a lightweight!
Heh, you think so?
We've got a couple on our hands!
You're looking good, manager!
What's that?
Mmmm.
Hey, watch it. She's the one who's been hitting on me!
ガッ
グラッ
BLEH!

スゥゥゥ
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
She's cheatin' on you!
Ouww! That hurt!
She's toying with your emotions, manager!
HAHAHAHAHA
Everyone's like this at the start.
It's how you become adults.
Don't push her too hard.
You'll kill her.
Ur ...
R'mmmm
One more!
Right?

Mmmmmmmm.
Hrng!
ボボボ
God, what a violent drunk!
W-What the hell?
Ah... ah.
Whoa! Did you just hear a crack?! Holy jesus!
...
Your clothes ...
are a disgrace ...

Oh my god!
フォギッ
You've got a long way to go!!
ビッ ビッ
These aren't fit to be sold to anyone!!
The design is hack-neyed!
The make is rough!!
くらっ
Urrp
Moving backwards is only going to ruin my touch!!
That's it! I can't be wasting my time here!!
ドドド
Rookie!!
You stupid ...
バタバタ
What is she talking about?
Gogh!


Huh ... Sakai, you came too?
That's right! You shouldn't be doing this!!
Mmm
Ugh ...
So sorry to inform you!
Due to personal circumstances, she'll be quitting her job as of right now!
All right, let's just take it easy, Mr. Boy-friend.
I'm afraid I don't quite see what your point is.
Huh ...?
Who are you?
What's going on?
It's her stalker!

Don't you give me this flippant "boyfriend" crap, jackass! Cuz we ain't at that stage yet...
Fuh?
グィ〜
Whaa! I just lost a tooth!
PLOP
Ah ... agh
No way!
False teeth are expensive...
No... Oh my god.
ドン
Let's go home!!
Come on.

You're going to live with us!!
I've made up my mind!!
Huh...?
Live... with you?
You can forget about all the other crap, and focus on your clothesmaking!!
S-Sakai ...?
W... Wait ...
I don't think that's such a good idea!
Got it?!

I have to go back and tell them I'm not quitting!
Hold it!
No no no! What are you saying?!
Look, if you live here, you won't have to worry about rent!
Sometimes you have to take detours to reach the life you want! Everyone deals with hard times in their life!!
...
It hurts me to see you doing anything that isn't clothes, too! It's like... It's like seeing a shark forced to live off grass in a meadow!
I don't want to be a couch bum!!
Stop treating me like a helpless child! Let go!!
That's not my point!
Oh!
ドタ…

Stop playing with me!!
You're the boss! You own the whole damn...
We're your workers!
This is your off-ice!
That it's been made easy for me!
I can't make my living knowing ...
I'm making clothes for serious, not a game!!
ボヨヨヨ

AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!
AAH!!

AWAH! AWAH! AWAH!
All right!
Let's try it!
Shoji ...
...
AWAH!! AWAH!! AWAH!! AWAH!! AWAH!! AWAH!! AWA
AWAH!! AWAH!!
AWAH!!
AWAH!!

But I also think that those who really know what they want are allowed to let other people help 'em.
CLICK
I know people can't survive just by doing the things they want to do.
I guess the idiot's rubbing off on me.
Let's go.
And it seems like that goes for Gogh, as well.
Hey, keep pushing back there!
I have a feeling that my "reason" has folded in the face of his "irrationality."

Shh, don't talk.
Come on, don't write "wanna."
GOGH
Thank you for all your support. "Gogh" has moved! Locations: If you wanna
GOGH Couture
I told you, this is gonna work out fine! We've gotta stick to the plan!
Listen to you, Gogh! It's too late for that now!
I wonder if this was the right idea...
Y'know
コンコン
Yes?
Coming.
Um... right
You don't want wrinkles!
Yeah! No stressing! You'll take years off your life!

Ahaaa! So this is what's going on!
ガチャ…
Oh, hello!
I've been getting complaints from your neighbors!
Listen!
Hello.
This is our landlord.
Yes…?
Can we talk?
So…
My point is this…
Can't you just have some common sense about these things?
W-We're sorry, sir…
You play guitar too loud! You shout too much! You're clanking and clattering away in the middle of the night!

Whaaat?!
I want you out!

You signed a lease that said two men would be staying here...

I'm renting this room to you as a residence.
It is not a business space.

And what about you, miss?
Y-yes?
Are you living here, too?

Playing house?!
I'm running a grown-up business here. This is no place for playing house.
All of these things, all of them! Are a breach of our contract!

If this isn't playing house, then tell me, what is?

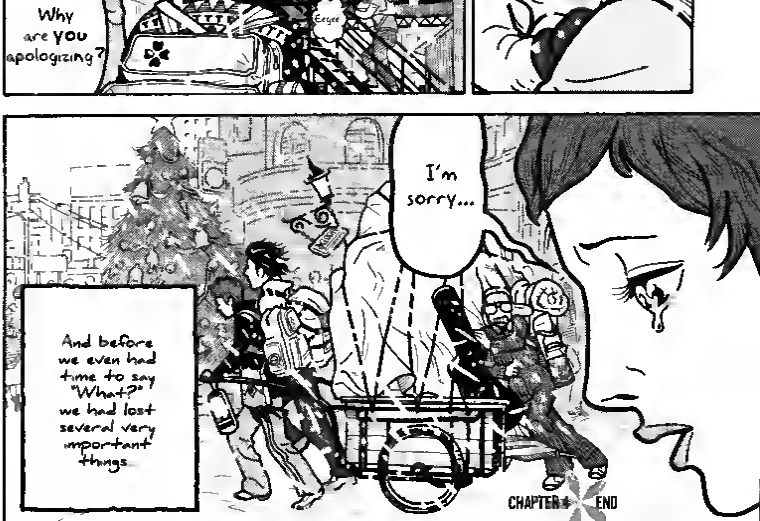
ドタンバ
...

Well, you heard me.
You've got three days to clear out.

Umm, can...
No! You take that back, right now!

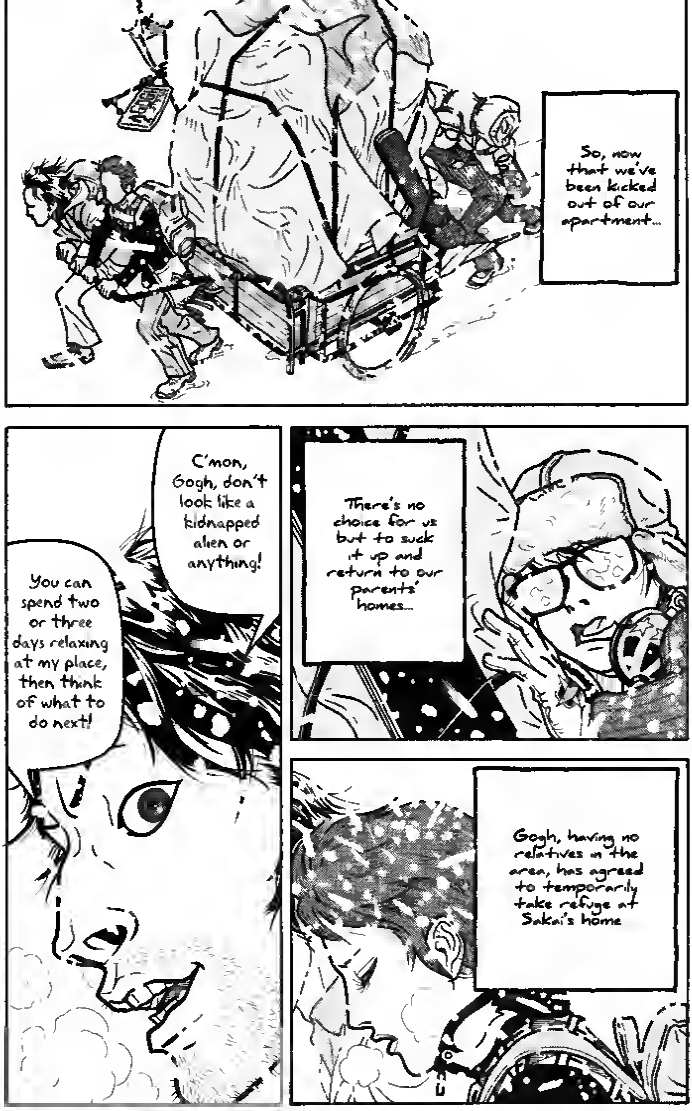
W-What did you say?!
Sakai!

I'm sorry...
Why are YOU apologizing?
Peehee! Hehah!


I'm sorry...
And before we even had time to say "What?" we had lost several very important things...
CHAPTER 4 END

CHAPTER 5

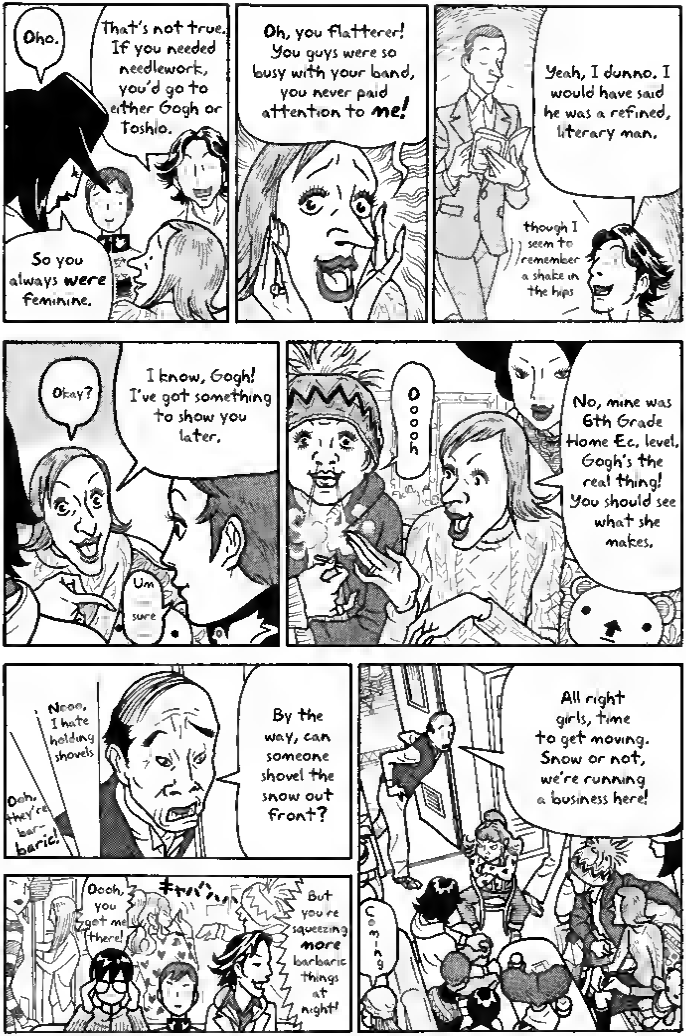
GROTTO ROMANCE


So, now that we've been kicked out of our apartment...
There's no choice for us but to suck it up and return to our parents' homes...
C'mon, Gogh, don't look like a kidnapped alien or anything!
You can spend two or three days relaxing at my place, then think of what to do next!
Gogh, having no relatives in the area, has agreed to temporarily take refuge at Saka's home

I mean ...
Yeah, I don't want to have to fall back on them now, either...
Just don't worry! My folks are chill, you'll see!
ギギ
But what else are we gonna do with all this luggage, in the snow?
ブッ
Eef!
Ahh
Eek
Huh
Doof, can't walk in the snow with shoes like those...

You all right?
Hey lady!
She might have hit her head
Hang on a sec.
Huh ...?
What?
Oh, I'm just fine.
Well, you sure made a sound.
Thanks... It wasn't too bad, really...
Oh, and Gogh, too!!
Ooh! Shoji!
Wow
Eh?
Are you okay, over there?
Sakai...

Three of my classmates, pulling a trailer in the snow!
You wouldn't believe the shock!
Oooh, this one's mine.
Um... sorry.
Now now, don't judge.
I couldn't believe my eyes!
You think you're shocked! Look what happened to our old pal Toshio!
Hey, tell us what she was like in high school! Chasin' boys like now?!
Oh, you!
You just relax and hang out here for now!
It's terr-ible!
But look at you! Kicked out of your place on a day like this!
Ooh, even better
H-Help me, Gogh
Thanks a lot.

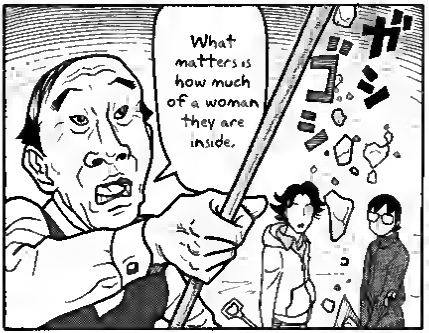

Oho.
That's not true. If you needed needlework, you'd go to either Gogh or Toshio.
So you always were feminine.
Oh, you flatterer! You guys were so busy with your band, you never paid attention to me!
Yeah, I dunno. I would have said he was a refined, literary man.
though I seem to remember a shake in the hips
Okay?
I know, Gogh! I've got something to show you later.
Um — sure
Ooooh
No, mine was 6th Grade Home Ec. level. Gogh's the real thing! You should see what she makes.
Nnnn, I hate holding shovels
Oooh, they're bar-baric!
By the way, can someone shovel the snow out front?
All right girls, time to get moving. Snow or not, we're running a business here!
Oooh, you got me there!
But you're squeezing more barbaric things at night!
Coming

Wow!
Wow
We're the bottom rung, so we get out the day's outfits and mend anything that needs mending!
We've got everything from mythological to celebrity styles!
These are stage outfits!
Whoaaaa.
Awesome!
HEEEEEEE
And the shows are our moneymaker, so we put all our effort into them!
Aah
Oooh

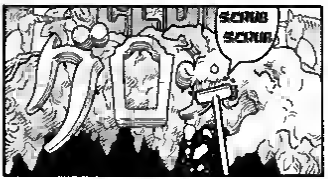
I bet you like being the center of attention, you ladykiller!
What's this? Are you enjoying this?

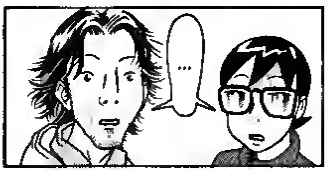
Yeah.
ザリザリザリ
Hey, we gotta get focused on moving again...

What ever.
Just wait until the make-up comes off, and you see the disaster beneath.

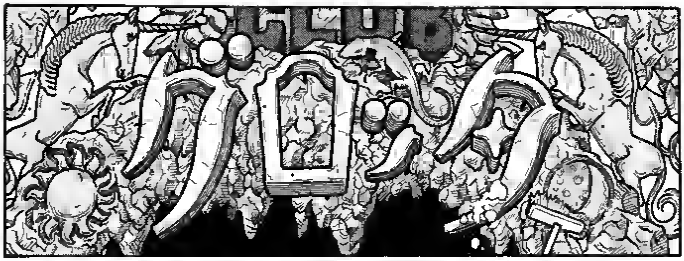

What matters is how much of a woman they are inside.
ガシ
ゴミ

Every girl changes once you get the make-up off.


SCRUB SCRUB


...

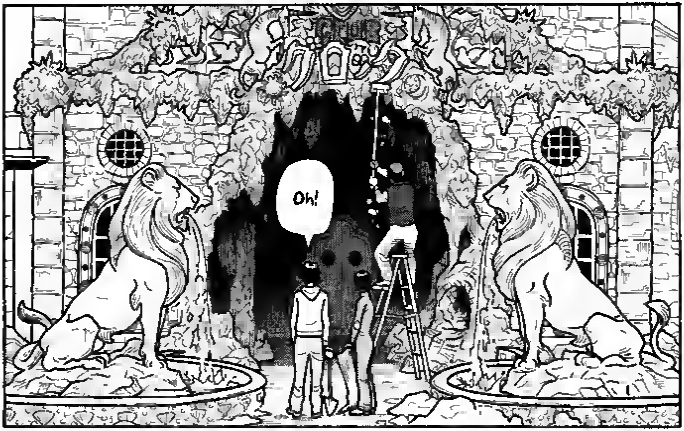
I think our girls are much more feminine than any old gal whose only claim to fame is that she wasn't born with a cock already.


CLUB
グロッタ

What's Grotta mean?
Hey, Mr. Manager.

Grotta?
Someone's name?
Grotta?

It means cave! Grotto!
What does it look like?


Oh!

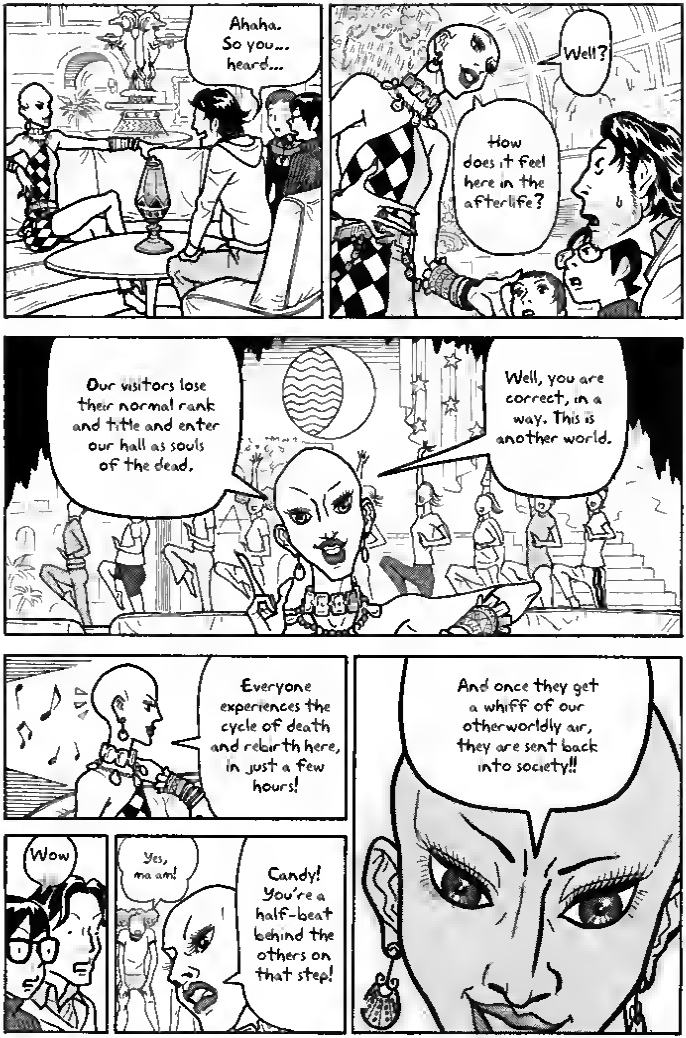
So... Are you and Sakai...
Hmm... So you're taking refuge at Sakai's place for now?
Yeah ...
"Together"?
Which is why...
Nope!
Well, which is why it's kind of weird for me... I don't know...
So...
Toshio ...
Hmm...
Yeah, that would be troubling ...
It doesn't seem right for me to do it..

I don't mind if it's just for the night...
Do you think you could put me up here? Or anywhere else I might fit.
I owe them too much as it is.
I feel like soon we won't even be "friends" anymore ...
...
Hmm
I see...
I understand that feeling.
...
Gosh, would you mind not calling me Toshio?
Oh! I'm sorry.
I go by Amanda here.
Why don't we go ask someone in charge?
Really?
Thank you, Toshio!

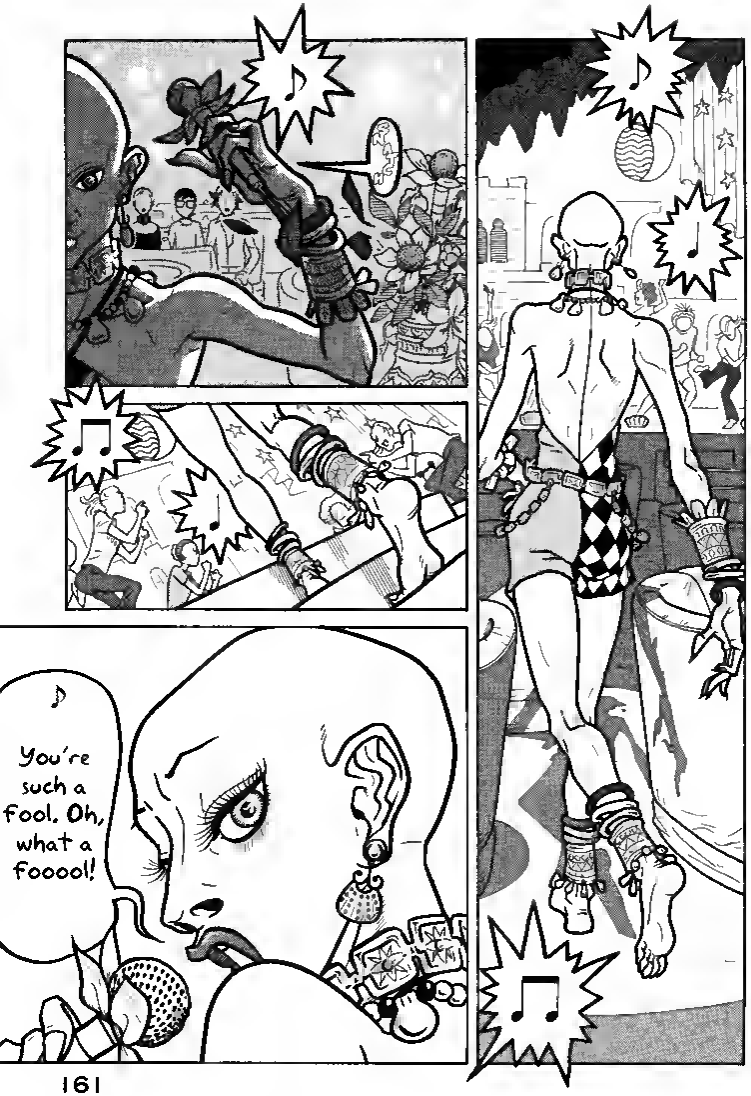
Indulge in a nap from time to time,
and you never know what you might overhear.
ギ
Yaaawn
CLING
ゲロゲロゲロゲロ
ポカポカーン
Good good good
One-two, one-two.

There must be some mental connection between those who work in creating beauty.
Ha ha. Finally smiling again
This is cool. I wonder what it's like with the costumes added.
This is all completely lost on me.
What am I doing here...?
Do you think I actually froze to death out there?!
Shoji!
The hell are you going on about?
Have we gone to the afterlife? Is that what this is?
!?
JYARA
Betty!! I want you to stab that finger when you point!

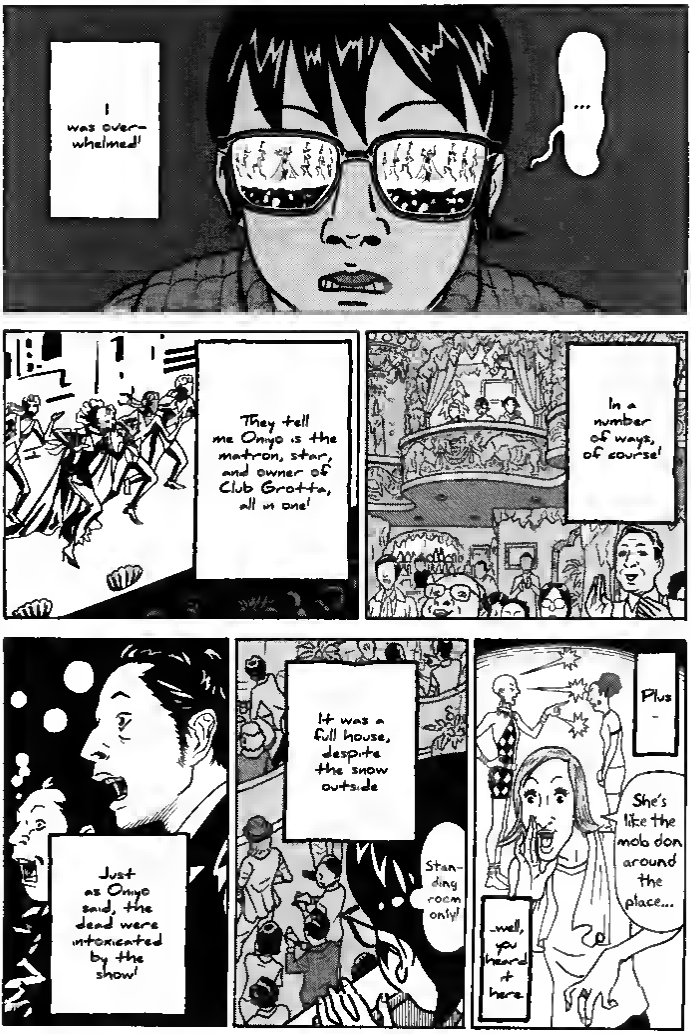
How many times do I have to tell you?!
Nobody is going give a sloppy queen a second glance!!
Good evening.
Oh.
Yes ma'am!
Now do that one again!
Ning.
Eve
Good


Ahaha. So you... heard...
Well?
How does it feel here in the afterlife?
Our visitors lose their normal rank and title and enter our hall as souls of the dead.
Well, you are correct, in a way. This is another world.
Everyone experiences the cycle of death and rebirth here, in just a few hours!
And once they get a whiff of our otherworldly air, they are sent back into society!!
Wow
Yes, ma'am!
Candy! You're a half-beat behind the others on that step!

Do you like it here, young lady?
Well, that's very kind of you to say.
A girl at your age who understands!
It's wonderful! I feel like I've stepped into 19th century Europe!
You'll simply **have** to attend tonight's show!
Yes!


♪
♪
♪
♪
♪
You're such a fool. Oh, what a fooool!

But my fortress - it's impregnable!
Butter me up - you're incorrigable!
Half-hearted love just isn't in the cards... Until the day I catch Venuuuus!
Oniyo!
My empress!


I was overwhelmed!
...
They tell me Onyo is the matron, star, and owner of Club Grotta, all in one!
In a number of ways, of course!
Just as Onyo said, the dead were intoxicated by the show!
It was a full house, despite the snow outside
Standing room only!
Plus -
She's like the mob don around the place...
...well, you heard it here.

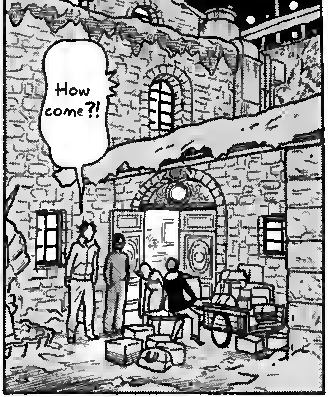
The collision of all these things sent my mind reeling...
They were grotesque, and beautiful
They looked like men, and looked like women
"This is the real deal"
All I could say to myself was,
And a single glance registered
Saka, seemed to be feeling it, too...
...
Oh, such a fool you are, to fall for meeee...

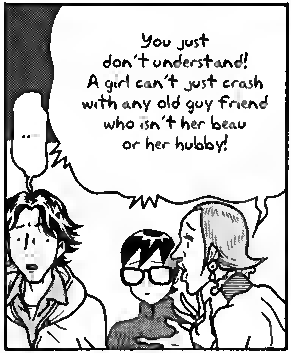
An unearthly light in Gogh's eyes!!
ゴゴゴゴ!!

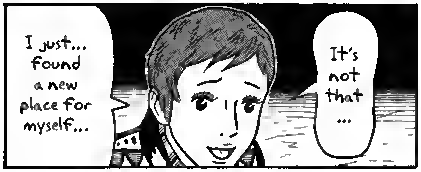
Check out Han Gogh frozen in her seat.
Man, that was... really...
Kya ha ha ha!
Oh! Welcome back!
I think that was a tad too glitzy for me.
My eyes are still glittering over here...
It was great.
What did you think?!
You were awesome!
Don't envy, it's pathetic.
Of course, from a stage presence standpoint, I've got nothing on Oniyo.
Yes!
I loved it!
Well, Gogh?!

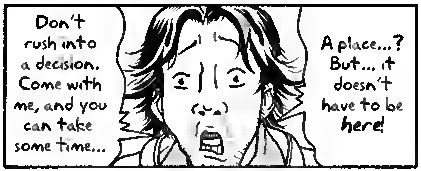
By the way, Gogh, I asked her for you...
Huh ...?
Say... Has Gogh ever been that happy after one of our shows?
Nope. Time to study.
All I could think was, 'Now this is a revue!'
Oh, thanks!
Isn't that right?!
Really ?!
?
Thank you very much!
Huh?
What's going on?

Do you really not want to stay at my house?!
Why not?


How come?!


You just don't understand! A girl can't just crash with any old guy friend who isn't her beau or her hubby!
..


I just... found a new place for myself...
It's not that ...


Don't rush into a decision. Come with me, and you can take some time...
A place...? But... it doesn't have to be here!

Do you mind? Why don't you just butt out for a few seconds!
Why should I?!

Don't you see that Gogh will feel even worse surrounded by all those strangers?!
Oh, you stupid oaf!

She can think of it like a boarding-house or something!!
What do you think I'm gonna do? It's my parents' house! My folks, and my brother and his wife are there!

Was it the sidelong glances that did it?!
What's the deal? Did that Oniyo chick drive you crazy?!
Bad people?! You take that back!
Sakai!
There might be bad people!!
Look, you don't know what goes on here!
Want to be able to strike out on my own, without needing to rely on you two...
I just...
Chill out, Sakai!
Don't you insult my stage sister!
What did Oniyo ever do to you?!
Completely the opposite! I'm worried for you because you're a grown woman!
I'd be sick to my stomach with concern!!
On your own? But... don't you see how worried we are?
Don't treat me... like a child...
Sakai, please...

What kind of an idiot would let the woman he loves stay in a place like this?!
...

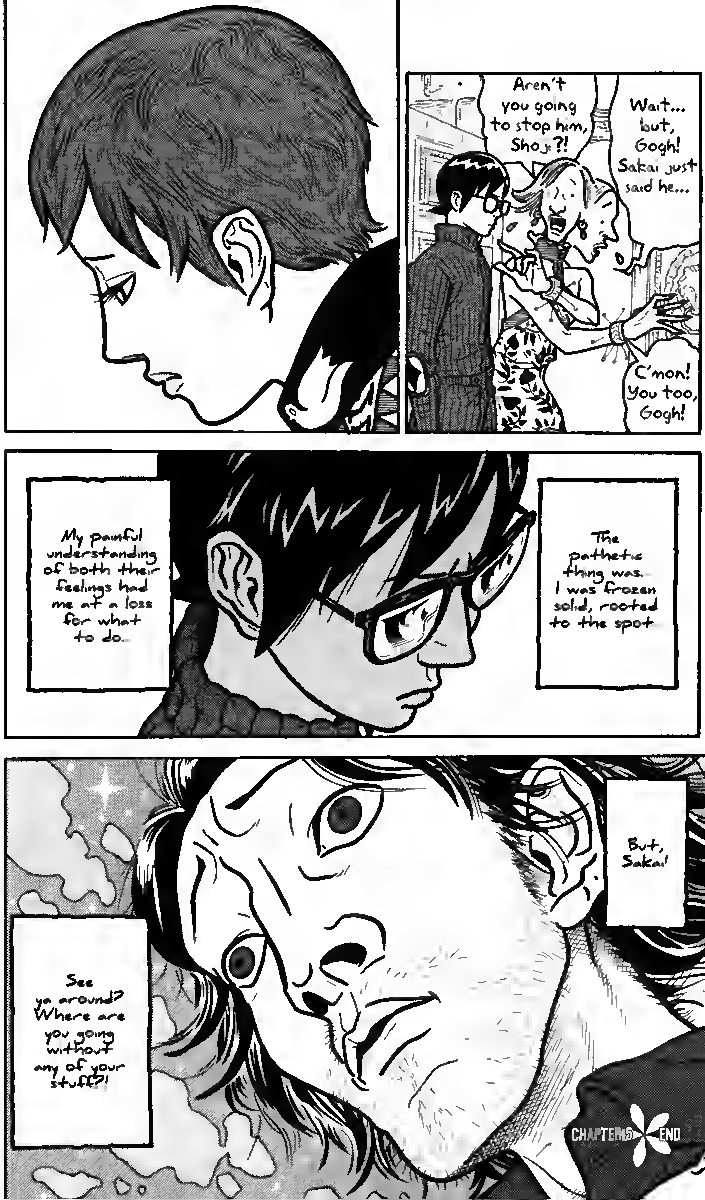
He just had to say it.
Uh...
I'm sorry ...
...
I think ...
I've spent too much time around you two ...

If you just want to stay friends ...

It's not good to get too attached ...

Stay ... Stay
F- f- f- f...
F-

バサササッ
ドサバサ…ドサ
ドン
Oh…
Oh! Well, that's that...
See ya around.


Aren't you going to stop him, Shoj.?!
Wait... but, Gogh! Sakai just said he...
C'mon! You too, Gogh!
My painful understanding of both their feelings had me at a loss for what to do...
The pathetic thing was... I was frozen solid, rooted to the spot...
But, Sakai!
See ya around? Where are you going without any of your stuff?!
CHAPTER 3 END

VIEW POINT
Well, we've checked everywhere Sakai's likely to go, and he hasn't turned up...

COLOR PAGE
His parents say they haven't heard from him, either ...
Hmm ...

CHAPTER 6
BUOS OPEN GENTLY
Well, then... The idiot's just plain disappeared.

Hmm, right ...
Don't tell Gogh about this. She'll be worried sick.

Um ...

Huh? Wait.
Aren't you going to stop by to see Gogh?

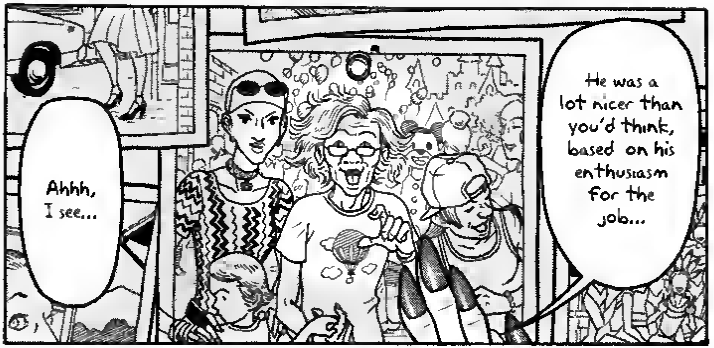
Aww, lay off him. He's more sensitive than most.
ステーキ
うなぎ

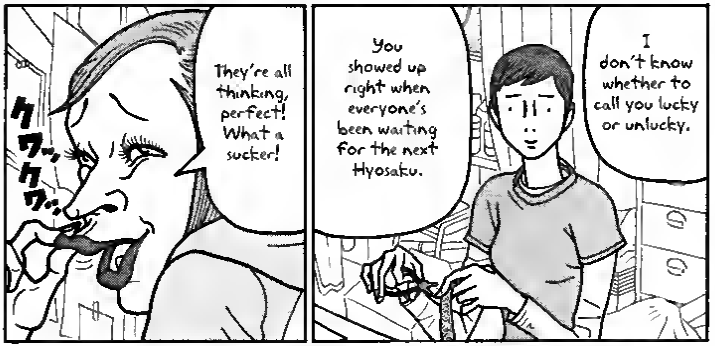
Why does Sakai have to be such a sulker? Vanishing the moment a girl rejects his advances!

I... I dunno. I dunno what I would say right now.
Later!

Goooogh
yeees?
It's broken
Hey, Gogh? This bracelet keeps falling apart.
Oh, okay!
I'll try to fix it!
Me too, me too.
Right away!
Show me today's outfit.

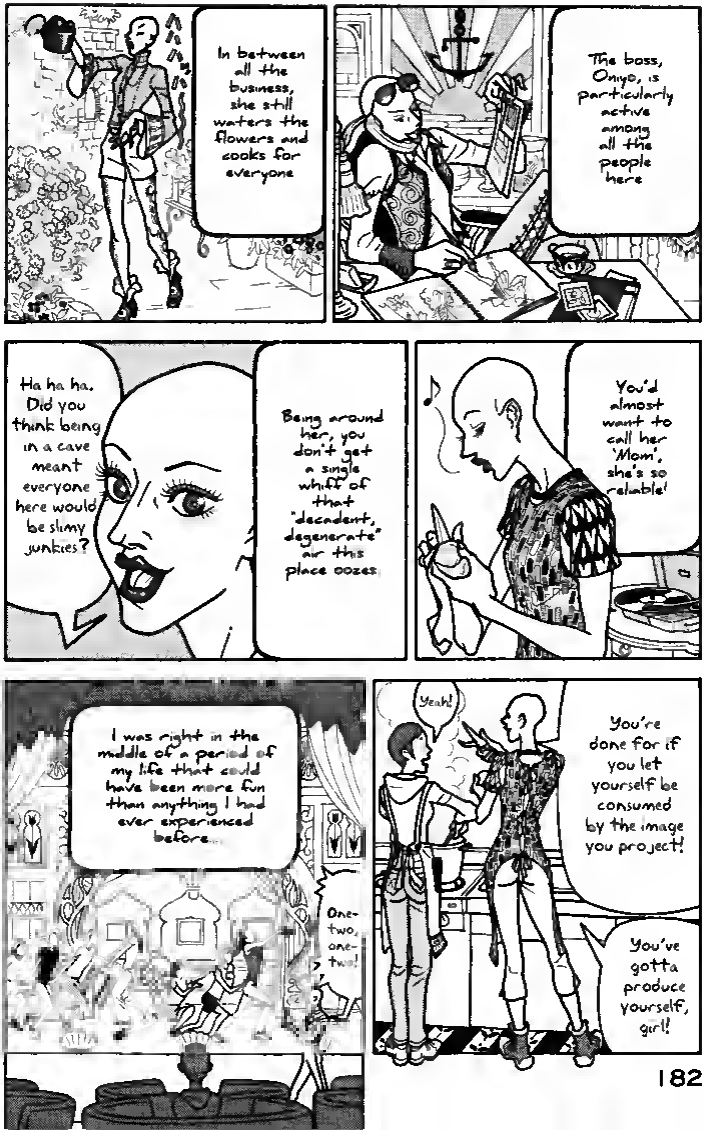
Hello, Gogh.
Oh, hi.
Umm, where are the nippers?
Third drawer on that cabinet.
Fixing bracelets? Oh, those girls are so bad. They're gonna use you for all you're worth, hun.
There.
No, I'm fine!
I'm having fun!
Now now, no pushing it!
You don't want to wear yourself out.
Hmm! Yeah.
Man, I wonder who the old costume person could have been, to manage this for years
Mr. Hiyosaku? Oh, he was something else, sweetheart.
He created basically all of the outfits we have here!
Oh, I know! It's incredible!
I only knew him during his last year here.

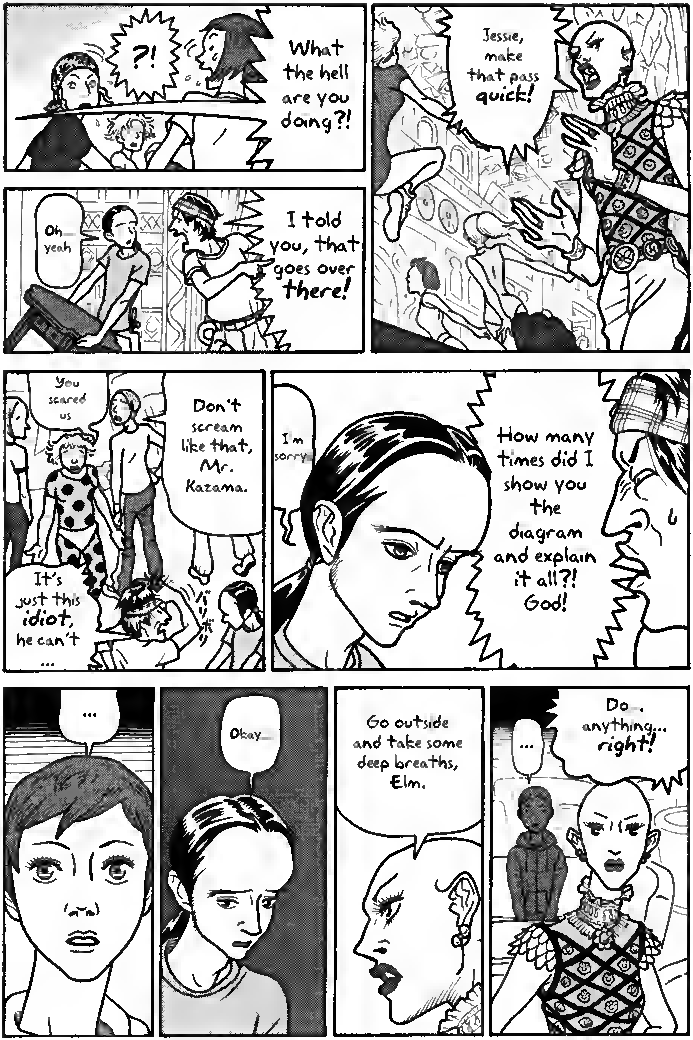

He was a lot nicer than you'd think, based on his enthusiasm for the job...
Ahhh, I see...


I don't know whether to call you lucky or unlucky.
You showed up right when everyone's been waiting for the next Hyosaku.
They're all thinking, perfect! What a sucker!
クックック...

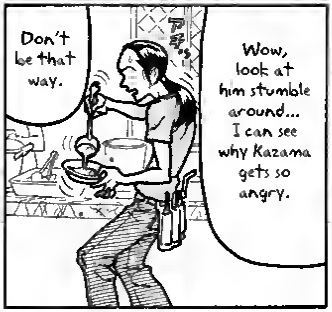
Heh ...
Yep, I am a sucker... But I'm don't mind it now.

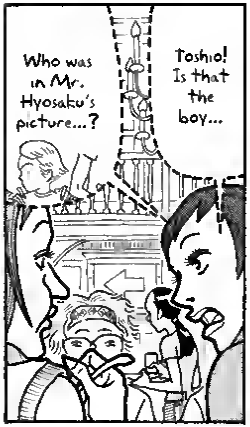
Well done, You pass!
Thanks!
Life here is so much clearer...
Compared to the mess that I just experienced...
Ooh, it's fixed! Thanks so much Gogh!
So much livelier
So much more active and fulfilling
But being in the midst of a whirlwind of working people really helps keep my mind at ease!
Ahem!
Which prompts an air-clearing cough to stave off depression...
...
Some-times
I find my thoughts occupied with that mess once again...


In between all the business, she still waters the flowers and cooks for everyone
The boss, Oniyo, is particularly active among all the people here
Ha ha ha. Did you think being in a cave meant everyone here would be slimy junkies?
Being around her, you don't get a single whiff of that "decadent, degenerate" air this place oozes
You'd almost want to call her 'Mom', she's so reliable!
I was right in the middle of a period of my life that could have been more fun than anything I had ever experienced before...
One-two, one-two!
Yeah!
You're done for if you let yourself be consumed by the image you project!
You've gotta produce yourself, girl!


?!
What the hell are you doing?!
Jessie, make that pass quick!
Oh yeah
I told you, that goes over there!
You scared us
Don't scream like that, Mr. Kazama.
It's just this idiot, he can't ...
I'm sorry.
How many times did I show you the diagram and explain it all?! God!
...
Okay...
Go outside and take some deep breaths, Elm.
...
Do... anything... right!

This was my first meeting with him. All I could think was, "Wow, what a forehead!"


Don't be that way.
Wow, look at him stumble around... I can see why Kazama gets so angry.


Who was in Mr. Hyosaku's picture...?
Toshio! Is that the boy...

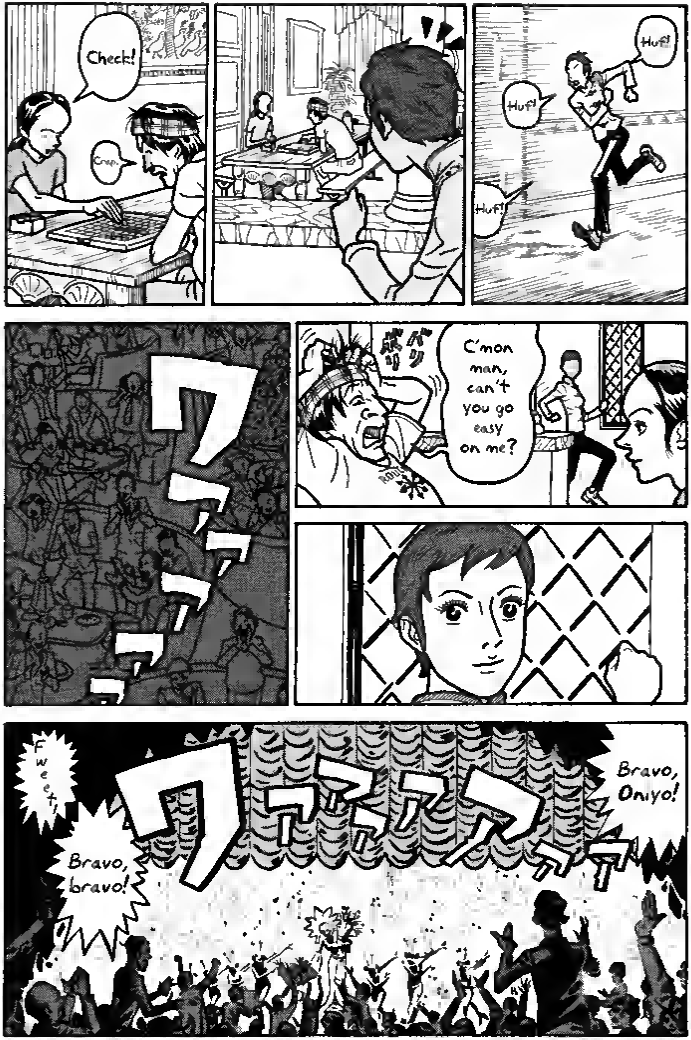
Isn't it annoying?! I feel like, wow, are you really Hyosaku's son?
I want him to do good work!

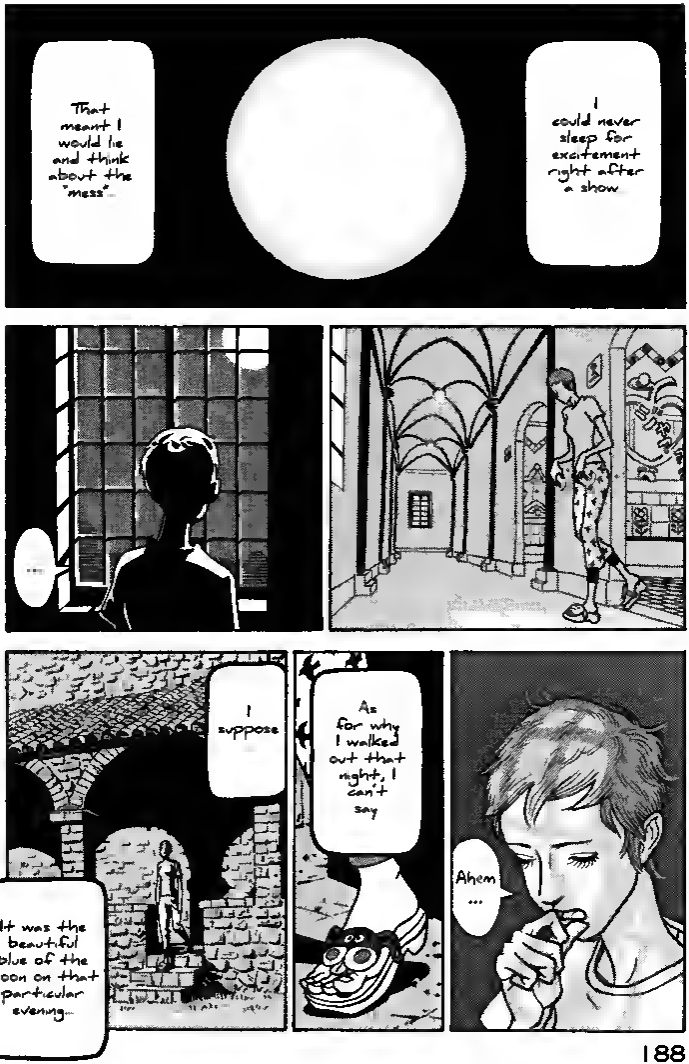
What was that, Gogh? It sounded like an old man's dying grunt.

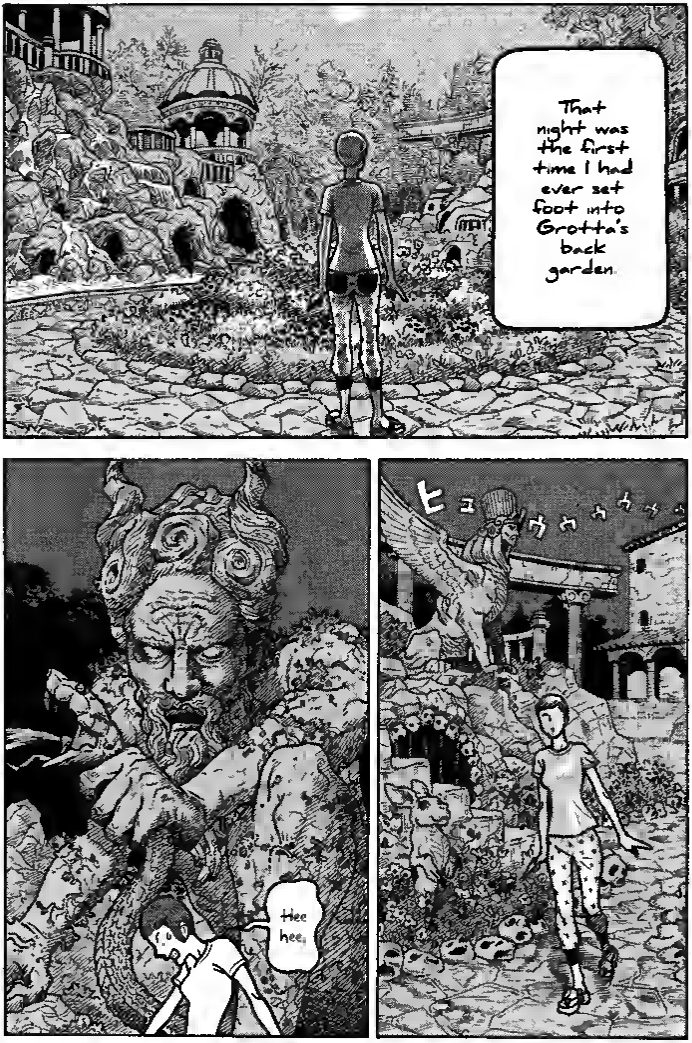
Huh ?!

She took owan dat poowah fadyuh of a boy...
Oh, dat Onyo, she's so gweat.
Oh, yeah. He's Mr. Hyosaku's son, all right.
But now he's technically Onyo's foster child.
What's that mean?
You know what she said? He's like a flower bud in time-lapse photography.
You know how the sunlight and the bugs just zip and zoom around, but the bud just opens ever so slowly?
Yeah.
You've seen those things on nature docs. They speed up the film to show the bud opening in fast forward.
He's just like that bud... Time moves at a different speed for him.
Ohhhh.

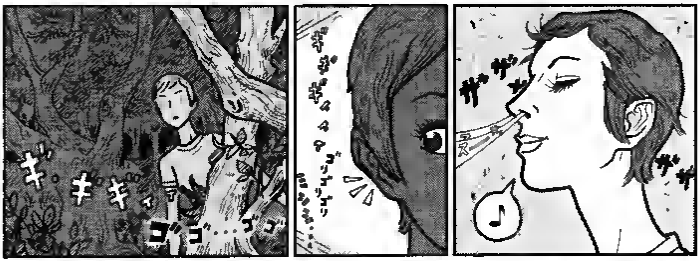
Buzz, buzz!
A- buzz, buzz!
I might act sweet, but my honey's all gone, dearie!
Gogh, Gogh!
...
I see you, buzzing and flitting around me! Slow down, you impatient thinggg!
I left my antenna headband in the dressing room!
Oh no!

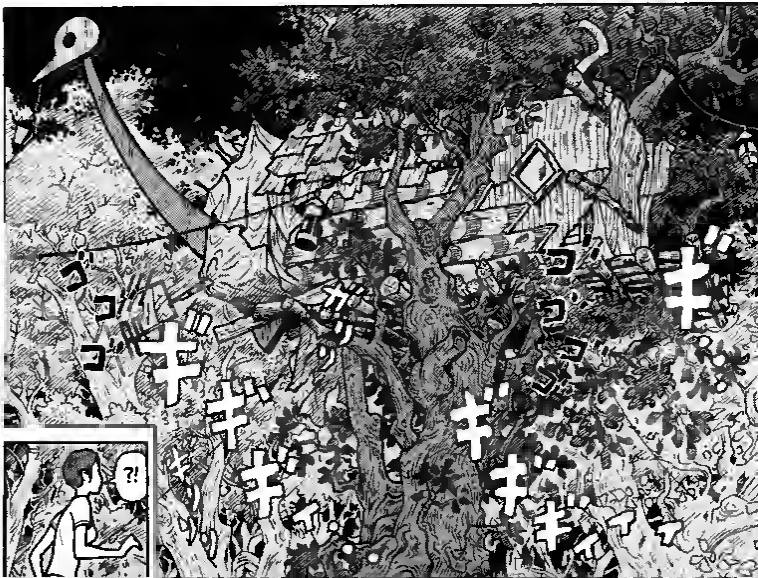

Check!
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!
ワアアア
バリ感!
C'mon man, can't you go easy on me?
ワアアアア
Bravo, Oniyo!
Bravo, bravo!
Fweet!


That meant I would lie and think about the "mess"...
I could never sleep for excitement right after a show
...
I suppose...
As for why I walked out that night, I can't say
Ahem...
It was the beautiful blue of the moon on that particular evening...


That night was the first time I had ever set foot into Grotta's back garden.
Hee hee.
ヒュウウウウウ

ザザ
ザザ
ザザ


ギギギィ
ゴゴ…ゴゴ
ザザザザ
ゴリゴリ
ザザ


ゴゴゴ
ガリ
ギギギィ
ギギギィ
ギギギィ
ゴゴゴ
?!

ガサ
ガサ
Oh
...
...
ハハハハハ

ビ〜ン

…

Yaw-
wwn.
ぶるっ
Whew
...
Huh?
CLICK
Oh!

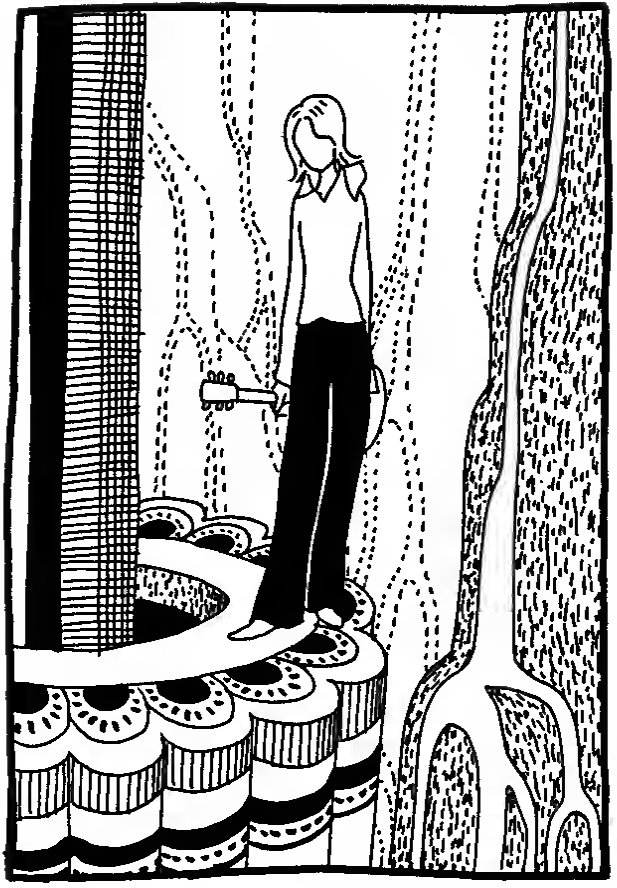
Um...
Uh... er...
Who's that?
I was just... walking.
And then I was here...
Oh, you're the new costume person.
G-? Gogh is... me. I'm the... new...
H-hello? Hello ...
...Umm, do you know me?
I'm Elm, I do construction and prop stuff, I guess...
This is my room up here.
Sorry for scaring you.

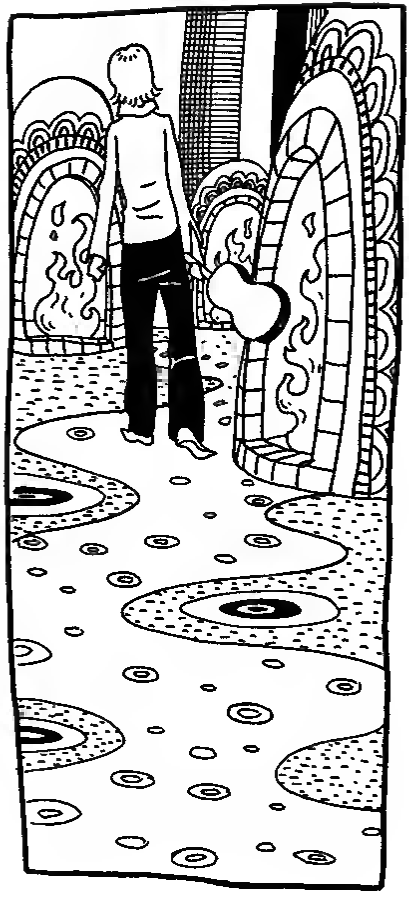
...
I know.
y-
yes...
Ha ha ha...
I guess you would. I'm always getting yelled at.
ガク
zzzz
?
!!

ドド
ポヨヨーン
Uh, uh...

A-are you okay?! Oh my God!
It's cool, it happens every three days at least.
Did it again ...
Need to get some sleep...
I...
I've got tea and crackers.
Wanna go on up?
N-no...
Huh?
G-good night...
CLICK
Well, night.
Or they'll yell at us both...
Yeah, good idea. This job is hard, You need sleep...

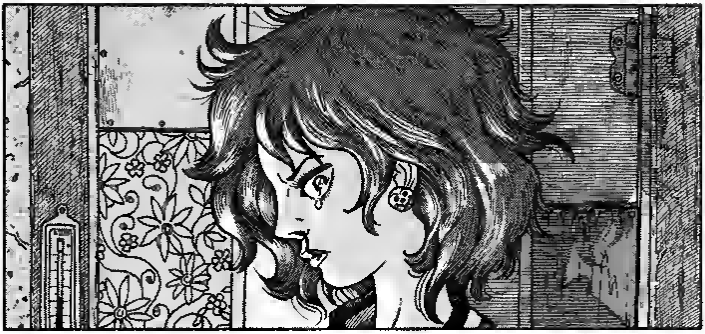
Wow
I was completely and totally enchanted by the sight of him peeing
What does that mean?!





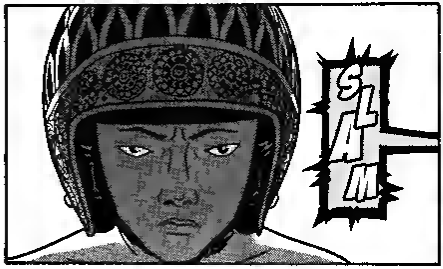
Another Story Part 1

ISAMU'S DIARY



We're through!

You knew what?
You don't need me You need help


SLAM

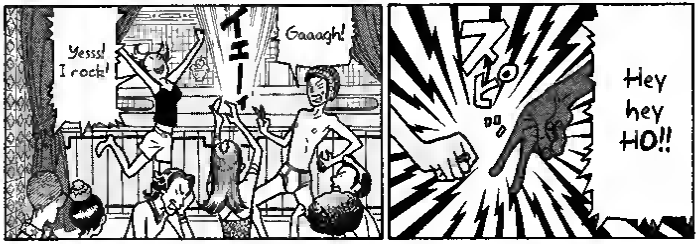
In grade school, Reiko once drew faces on 100 grains of rice for a summer school assignment.
She had patience like nobody else, and now she was PISSED
We're just hangin' out, havin' a good time, and the front of my helmet catches her on the nose.
CRUNK
Agh!
I was so absorbed in the task at hand.
Oo-wah!
...that by the time I noticed, she was lookin' like MEDUSA!
Well, what am I supposed to do?
I NEVER take my helmet off!

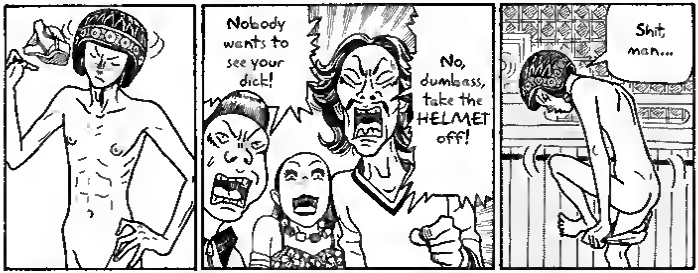
When you're ridin the highway, there are times when the scenery takes these terrifying, fantastic shifts that'll blow your mind.
He was a good pal of mine, and he died in a real weird accident way out in the sticks somewhere.
It's a keepsake of a friend
What can I say? He was "tuned in"
And the weird thing is, if I wear this baby even when I'm not ridin' my motorcycle, the sights still come in all crazy.
Eventually, I settled on a plan I'd wear it straight, until a year after his death
Pull down the t-shirt
The collar is ruined
and on, and on, and on
Don't call me!
yeow
got over-heated
Ouch
can't hear you
Since then, my trial period still continues.
TALE OF THE SHELMET
THREE SAMURAI
When I got the helmet as a memento of him, I remembered his words and put it on
Wonder if I'll see shit too
Well Who cares?
APRIL 5
Three months and five days.
Today makes
Why would I do that?

I'm supposed to be a cook, but since my constant helmet-wearing is "unhygienic," I have to wash dishes now
Yeah, let me guess. he came to audition for a big-foot movie role?
Hey, did you hear they finally caught a bigfoot in America?
No, I'm serious. They found him dancing in the woods, he was all tripped out on shrooms.
Yessir!
Uh, hurry up, Isamu.
And you! Get back to work!
Get that red phoenix plate back to the kitchen! You're holding up the line!
Hey, Isamu!
I wonder how they reproduce? Are the chicks called like, bighips?

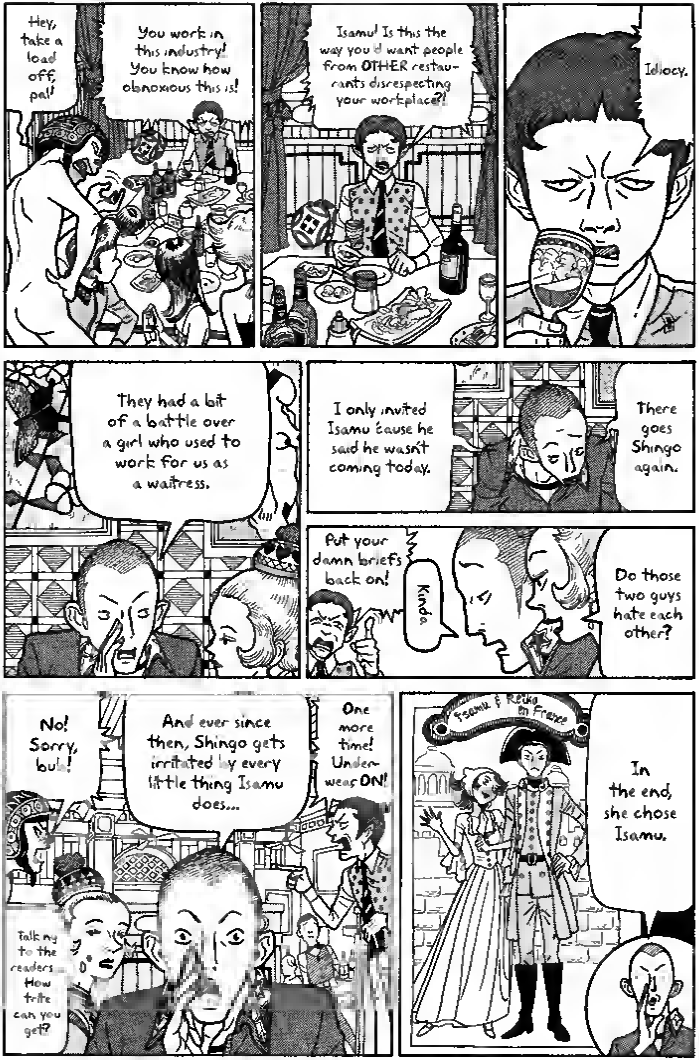
Now that he's head chef, he's like the mother-in-law from hell
Man, screw Shingo,
Why do you put a filth-ball like him in charge of sanitation?
Can't imagine what the manager's thinking
What is that stench? It's like rotting hair or something.
God-damn! Sniff, sniff
You don't have problems with a smelly man like me coming?
What, am I invited?
We've got girls from a women's college lacrosse team coming.
Wow, what a nice thing to say! Guess you've given up on promotions.
Don't worry, Isamu I mean, you smell, but you don't STINK
Ha ha ha Hey, you're getting off early today, right? You coming to the party?
Yes-sir, yes-sir!
Stop scaring us, Mother!
You're gonna pay if someone trips and breaks something!
Oh, and Isamu! Can't you do something about the damn floor?!
Promise, nothing that happens will reach Reiko's ears
No way. You're like a gossip column writer, for God's sake

Even Mother-in-law Shingo and I used to be (not exactly) friends before it happened
The ripple effect of the helmet spread in wide-reaching, deep, and retarded ways

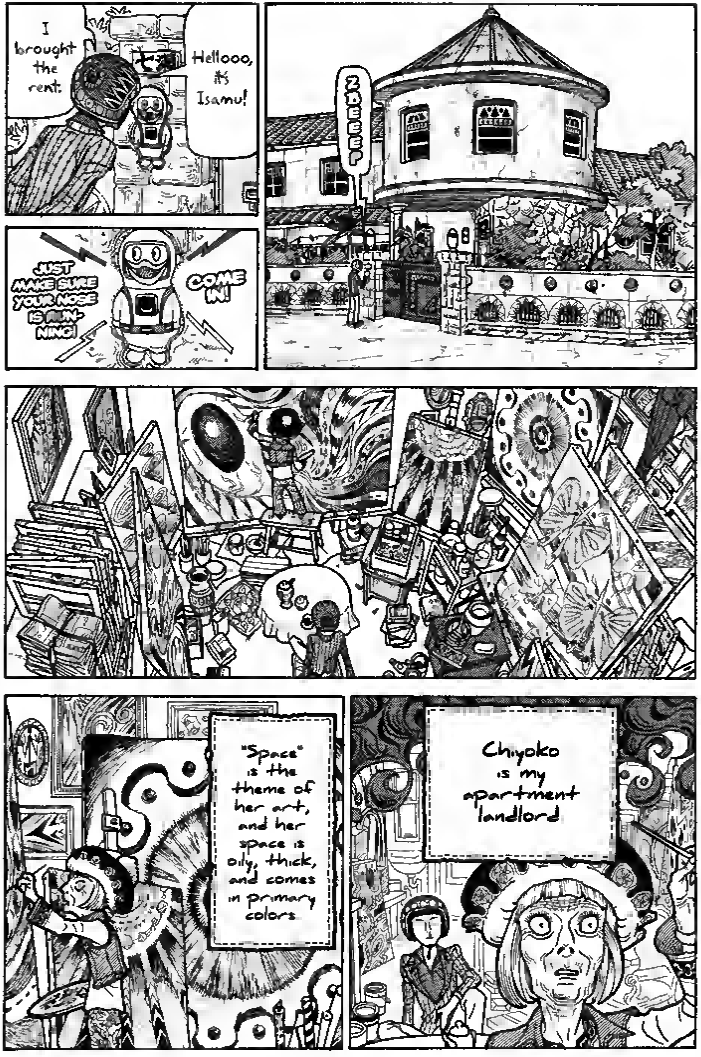

Yesss! I rock!
イエー!
Gaaagh!
Hey hey HO!!

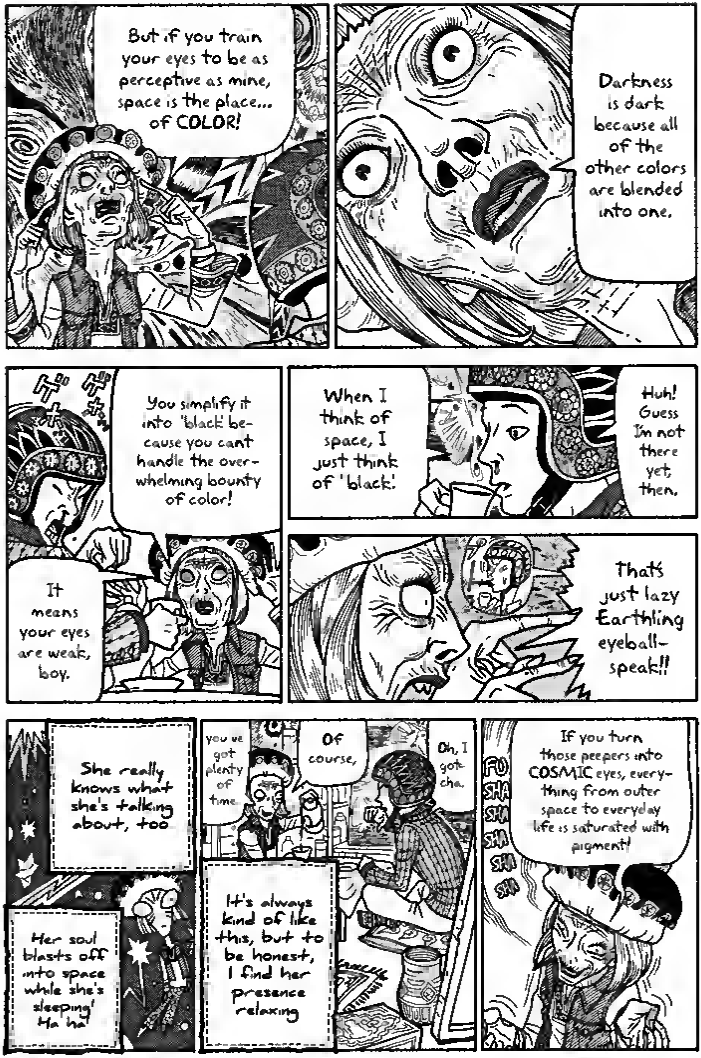

Nobody wants to see your dick!
No, dumbass, take the HELMET off!
Shit, man...

But-terrr!
Two helmets
Yeah, yeah, yeaaah!
Woo-hoohoo! Take a pic-ture, why don'tcha! Yeaaah!


Hey, take a load off, pal!
You work in this industry! You know how obnoxious this is!
Isamu! Is this the way you'd want people from OTHER restaurants disrespecting your workplace?!
Idiocy.
They had a bit of a battle over a girl who used to work for us as a waitress.
I only invited Isamu 'cause he said he wasn't coming today.
There goes Shingo again.
Put your damn briefs back on!
Kinda
Do those two guys hate each other?
No! Sorry, bud!
And ever since then, Shingo gets irritated by every little thing Isamu does...
One more time! Underwear ON!
Talking to the readers... How trite can you get?
Isamu & Reika in France
In the end, she chose Isamu.

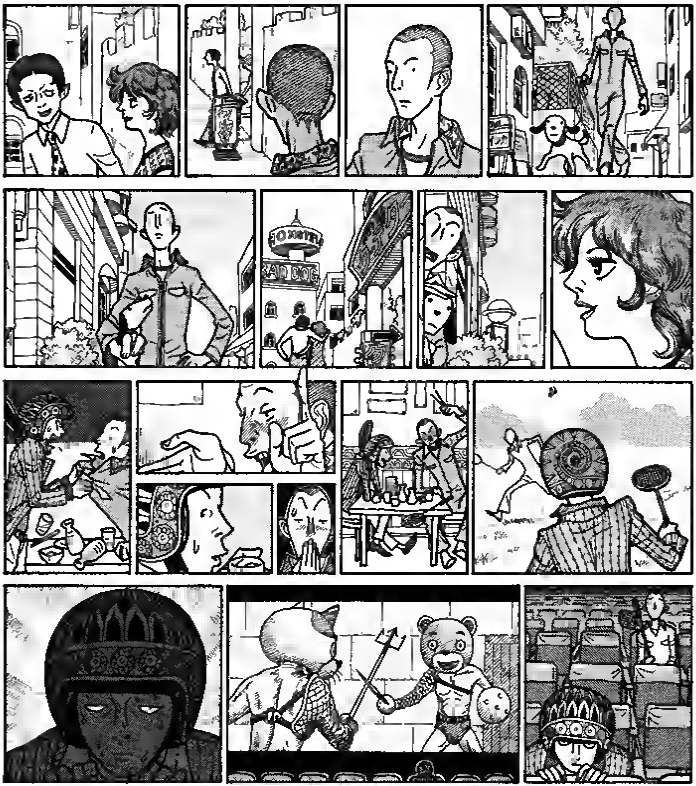
Yeah! Besides, he's just mad because he's having problems with Reiko!
Come on, Mr Helmet, Mr Chef! We're here to have fun!
Okay, enough arguing in here! Let's go outside and settle this like men!
Heh!
I'm not surprised! Poor Reiko... she has to put up with the Human Bacteria year round.
ガコ
Hey, keep that private!
Apparently the fight was broken up, apparently I was carried home, and apparently nobody was nice enough to put me back in clothes.
Honey! I'm home...
theeeee ... devi!!!! ?!
Wha- aaat ...
NOW YOU'RE
GONNAGET IT!

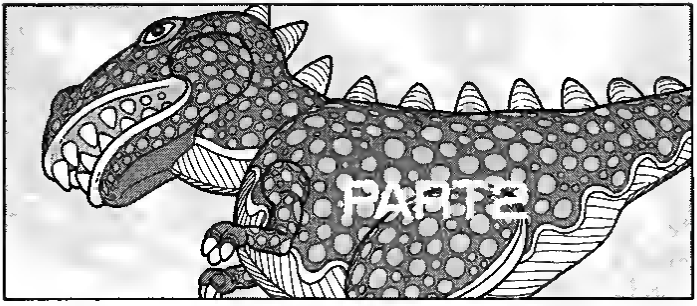

I brought the rent.
Hellooo, it's Isamu!
JUST MAKE SURE YOUR NOSE IS RUN-NING!
COME IN!
Chiyoko is my apartment landlord
"Space" is the theme of her art, and her space is oily, thick, and comes in primary colors.

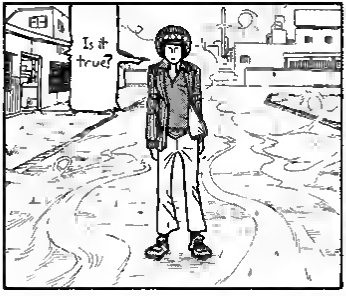

But if you train your eyes to be as perceptive as mine, space is the place... of COLOR!
Darkness is dark because all of the other colors are blended into one.
You simplify it into 'black' because you can't handle the overwhelming bounty of color!
When I think of space, I just think of 'black.'
Huh! Guess I'm not there yet, then.
It means your eyes are weak, boy.
That's just lazy Earthling eyeball-speak!!
She really knows what she's talking about, too
Her soul blasts off into space while she's sleeping! Ha ha!
you've got plenty of time.
Of course,
Oh, I got cha.
It's always kind of like this, but to be honest, I find her presence relaxing
If you turn those peepers into COSMIC eyes, everything from outer space to everyday life is saturated with pigment!
FU SHA SHA SHA SHA

iNTERMiSSiON

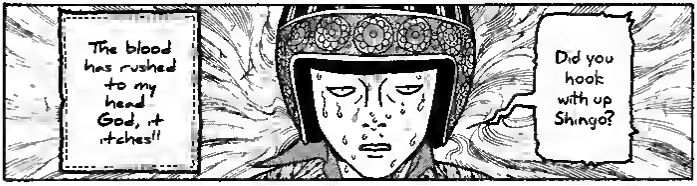
＜休　憩＞

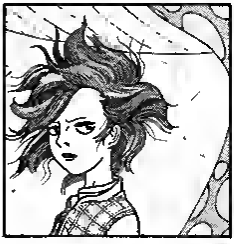


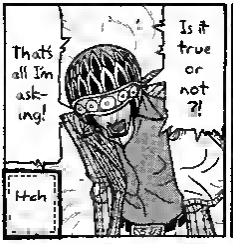

PART 2


Is it true?

What do you want?


The blood has rushed to my head God, it itches!!
Did you hook with up Shingo?




That's all I'm asking!
Is it true or not?!
Hah

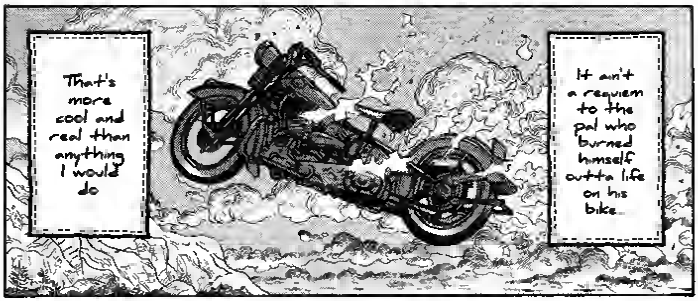
I'm kind of busy right now...
No time for this

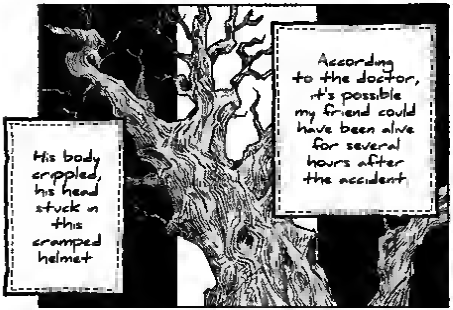
You spent so much time preoccupied with that damn helmet; I decided I was free to do what *I* wanted to do, too!
Ugh...
Igh.
Yes, it's true!
You never told me anything about it! I don't know what to do with you!
So what IS it, anyway? Some kind of memorial?
Itch
Itch
Itch
Itch
Itch
I never told you, but... you scared me, you know that?
I thought it was just a joke. But you NEVER TOOK IT OFF...
Do you connect the B-3 valve to D-6 before you turn it on?
Hang on. I'll take a look!
東洋バルーン
Reiko!
I thought we could talk about anything together, Isamu... But I was wrong.
Got a little too excited at the end
Uh...
I can't put up with you anymore
That's why I can't put up with you anymore- UH!

Sign: Toyo Balloon

Sorry, I need to go!
...

Hey! You!
Fug-gin
Azz-wipe ...
ADIOS!!
PEPCI
I ain't payin' my re-spects
You got it wrong, Reiko

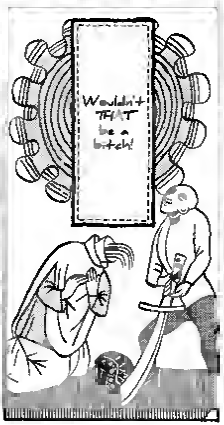

That's more cool and real than anything I would do
It ain't a requiem to the pal who burned himself outta life on his bike..


His body crippled, his head stuck in this cramped helmet
According to the doctor, it's possible my friend could have been alive for several hours after the accident

Fool in Bath
This is just me, being an embarrassing fool, all on my own..

On the other hand, here I am, enjoying my job and the use of all my senses, gettin' it on with my girl.

Well, he made it through those trying hours and reached the goal line of the afterlife...


Wouldn't THAT be a bitch!

It's kinda hard to face up to him after something that like...
And the time he was lying in a heap, slowly dying, I was doin' it with you, babe!
It occurred to me that it might not be fair
I wanted to use this year to feel even just a small fraction of the pain he went through
But I don't know that it would mean anything to you
That's the damn truth
I'm sorry, Reiko -
RIAAAA!!!

Shingo, you rat!
Is that you, Isamu? You're late...
トドドドドド
Wha...?
GRAAAASH!!

What the HELL are you DOING?!
How dare you... steal Reiko..
Agh. ugh.
What?! Such ridiculous allegations!
You put the moves on her, just to get back at me...
Okay, so you found out the truth! Yeah, we're dating now!
Let go!!
I know the truth...

Stop, Shingo!
Reiko herself was happy to make the switch! You have no say in the matter!
She's too good for the likes of YOU!
Nobody gives a shit about your grand, moving homage!
This stupid-ass friend's helmet!
She can't handle your bullshit anymore!
She told me she was tired of your antics!
...
Shut up!!
No...
Nnn...
I'm taking it off!
This damn eyesore has gone on long enough!

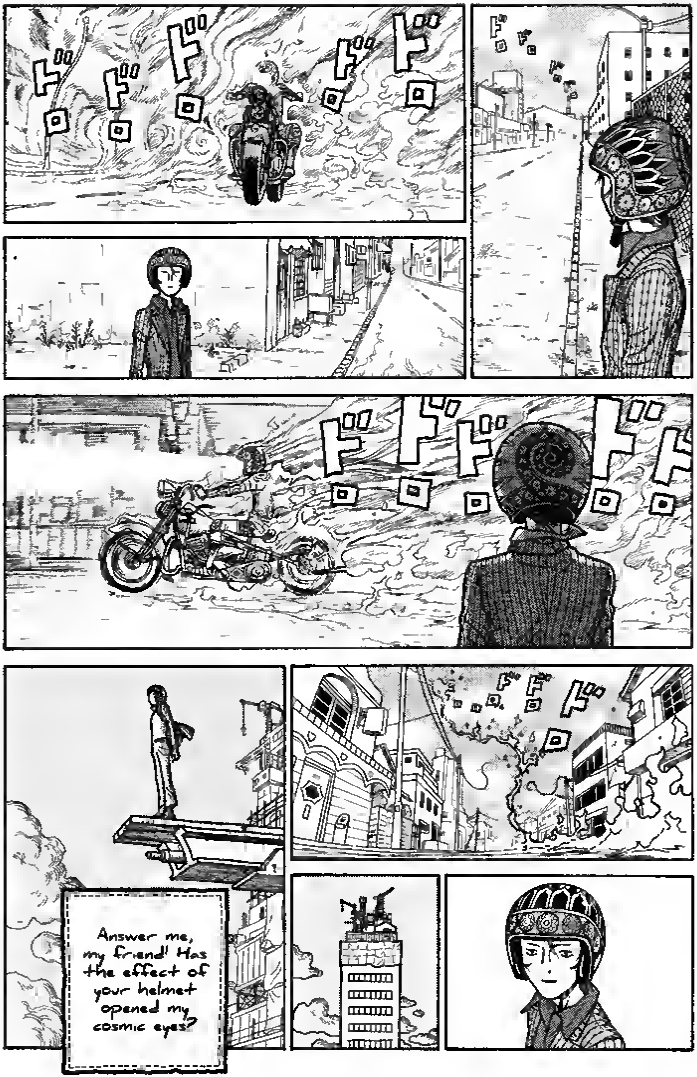
モグァァ
ネヴァァ
デッカァァ…
オギャアーァ

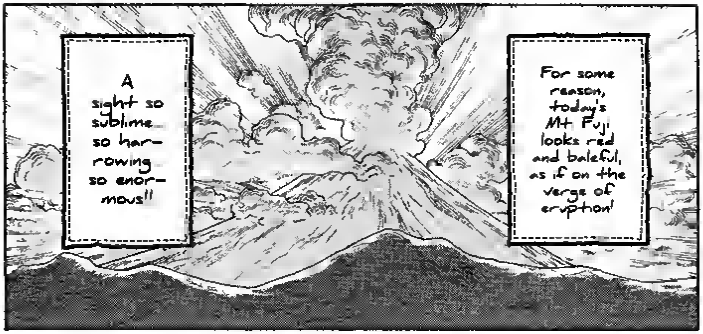
Oh, shit!!
I-I forgot...
I shouldnt have touched it sniff sniff
Grlp!
Bluaaah!
Blegh!
Urrg
Wurll!

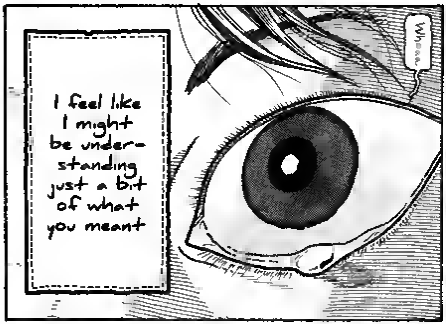
(Author's Note) Shingo was eating oden stew

Stop.
What the hell... That was WAY too quick.
It was a nice chop. You got him good.
Sounds like you won.
HUFF
HUFF
?
Aaaahh!
There, there.
...
Whewwww...
That's right, chill...
It would have, at some point...
Sorry, man...
If I hadn't let my tongue slip, this wouldn't have happened...

Stop singing
Looooook at aaaall the broooken plaaates ♪
Man..
Look at all the broken plates..
What should I do?
I've only got 16000 yen in the bank
Coming through! Man on the run.
Ex-squeeze me!
The boss likes you. Wait three years.
Come back and apologize with some chocolates...
Oh yeah
Why not run for it?
I felt lost. Somewhere between relief and emptiness
So..
Arthur's

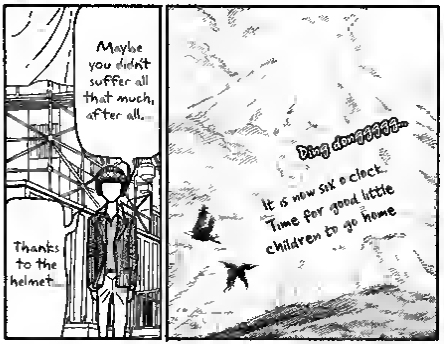

Answer me, my friend! Has the effect of your helmet opened my cosmic eyes?


A sight so sublime... so harrowing... so enormous!!
For some reason, today's Mt. Fuji looks red and baleful, as if on the verge of eruption!


I feel like I might be understanding just a bit of what you meant
Whoa...

These are clouds... right?

Don'tcha?


Maybe you didn't suffer all that much, after all...
Thanks to the helmet...
Ding dong♪♪♪♪...
It is now six o'clock. Time for good little children to go home

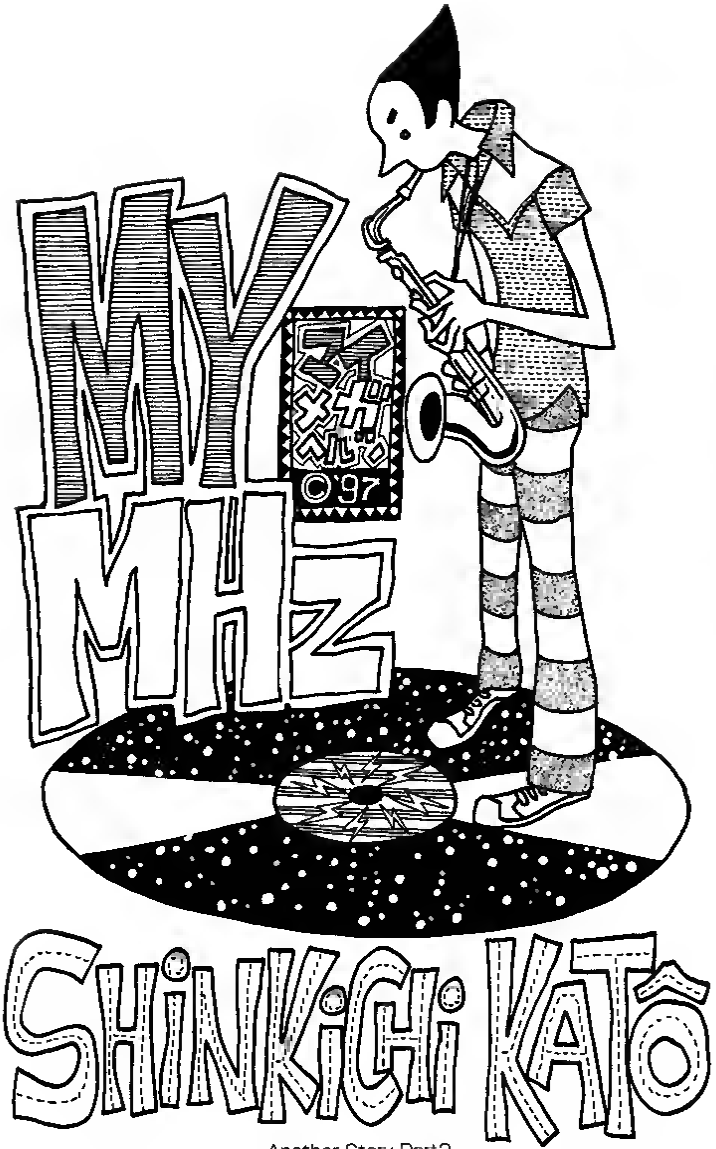
What was the final sight you took in from this life?
My friend!
I want to imag-ine...
...that the helmet changed your view, and brought about the opening of your cosmic eyes!
That the final thing you saw as you lay prone in that remote valley, eyes to the sky...
That it caused you to plunge into a vision that doesn't exist in our world!

Was a universe of color... such color!

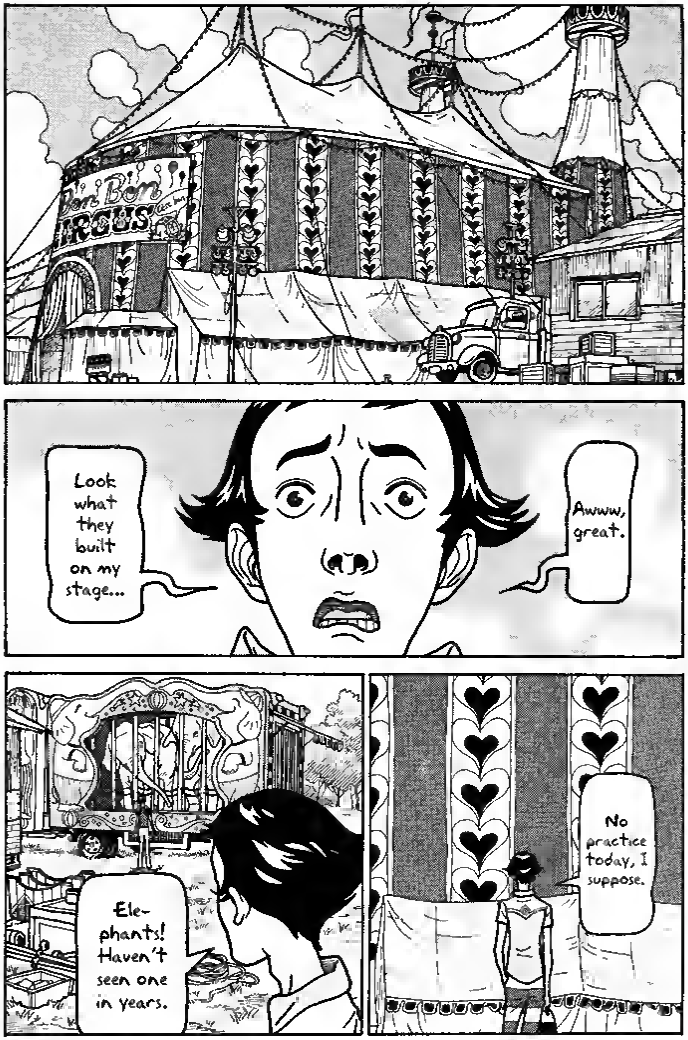
TRANSLATED BY FLYINGROBOTS

SCANNED BY BUKUWAWA

LETTERED BY BARBAPAPA



Another Story Part2

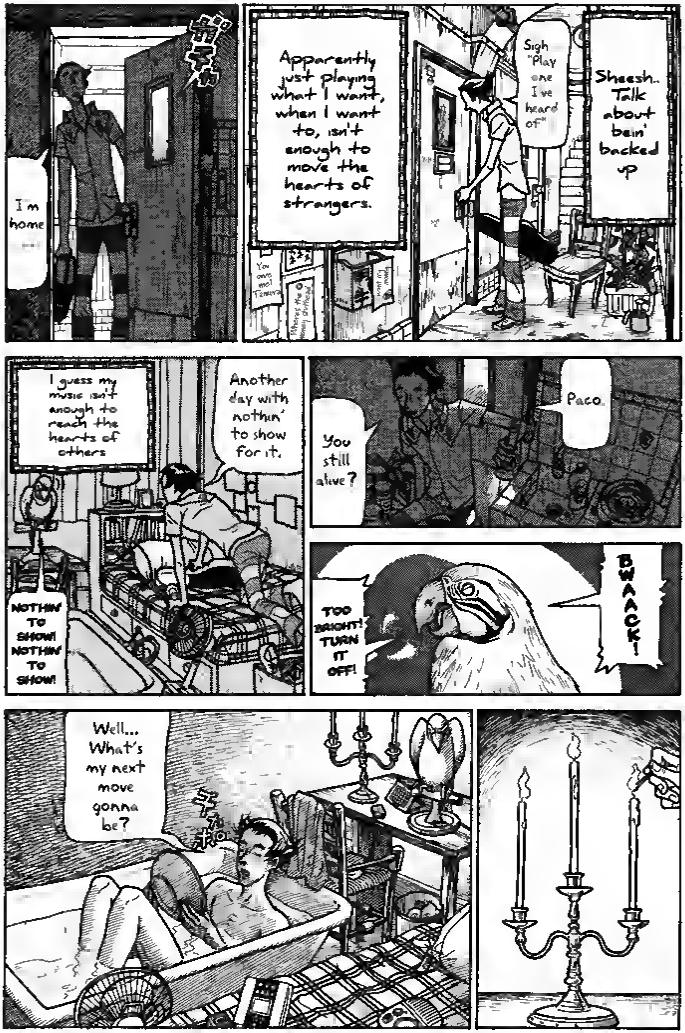

Ben Ben
CIRCUS
Look what they built on my stage...
Awww, great.
Ele-phants! Haven't seen one in years.
No practice today, I suppose.

Don't get too close, lady! They're dangerous.
Whoaaa!
CIRCUS
Guess I'll just have to give up for today.
That wasn't a joke, ma'am!
Ha ha ha.
Sigh...
Normally, it's my joie de vivre to stand out in the middle of that wide open space and practice.

Sir, I am doing you the favor of listening to you play in this dreadful heat
Now could you do one that I have heard of?
Whew!

Hey!
Tenor sax! I like it! We got ourselves a regular Coleman Hawkins here!
Oh, dear. You'll always be third-rate if that conceited answer is the best you can do.
Uh
Oh? You don't get it? Funny, I try my hardest to speak to people through my songs.
I always say this, as you know . .
Night mist, night mist!
Huh ?
Uhhh ...
You take requests? Play that one classic! The Yujiro tune!*
C'mon, what's it gonna hurt? Do it right and I'll slip ya a lil' somethin'!
Whatta waste of my time! Later!
Well, this was stupid. The boy's just a "Farfisa."
Why don't you PRACTICE before you audition ?!
What the hell?! Do you even know how to play that?!
Night mist, thank you again to- nn... ll—
Tuh

* A beloved actor/singer much like a Japanese Elvis who made many movies in the 50s and 60s. Youtube search for "Yujiro Yagiri" for the song here.


I'm home...
Apparently just playing what I want, when I want to, isn't enough to move the hearts of strangers.
Sigh "Play one I've heard of"
Sheesh.. Talk about bein' backed up
Paco.
You still alive?
TOO BRIGHT! TURN IT OFF!
BWAACK!
I guess my music isn't enough to reach the hearts of others
Another day with nothin' to show for it.
NOTHIN' TO SHOW! NOTHIN' TO SHOW!
Well... What's my next move gonna be?

Is it that time already?
RADIO! RADIO!
HEY! C'MON!
ワサ
ワサ
グアー
グアー
Oh, shut up. I'm getting it!
RADIO RADIO! BWAACK, RADIO!
Delivering the scents of another world straight to you, this is Labyrinth Station.
To whom it may concern, good day! And to you, good evening.

...a full-body shower of silver plasma comin' atcha!
Flowing from the throne of Knossos to Orion's Belt...
SHHH!
Good call, Paco. Started right on the dot!
...in the entire day
You might even say it's my only actual pleasure
I'm real into this station these days
Good day-- I mean, good evening. This is your troubadour for the ears, DJ Zebikoh.
Ha ha ha. What the hell?
Next, good evening to the chickadees.
And I caught this little signal!
Chitchit-chirt! Chirrup!
First, a good day to all the society finches.
Chbeee! Tweet tweet!
We met one night when I was bored and letting my fingers spin the dial
All this romance talk show, aura show crap

Thanks to this close proximity, I felt a strong connection to DJ Zebikoh's voice and choice in tunes
Here's the theme song from the idiotic teen movie "Isamu's Diary": Kenny Rankin's "My Carousel."
Apparently, I was grabbing the waves of a tiny pirate station--one emanating from right in my neighborhood
it's real bracin' for the heart. And if you're a lady, it makes your skin silky smooth.
Let me tell you a little secret. If you breathe while telling yourself that you're suckin' on pink air,
And now that Paco's an even bigger Zebikoh fan than me, it's the only time of the day he'll actually shut up
...
What's with this guy?
Just hearing his voice makes me feel like I'm floating away
I been tryin' it myself, but my imagination is gettin' carried away. I keep thinking I'm suckin' strawberry milk up my nose. A little too wet and a little too sweet, thanks.
Nee hee!

Kick him
You're an ear-ache!
I've had enuffa yer pee-pee-poo-poo caterwaulin' outside our office!
フワ
Earache is takin' it a step too far!!
Of all the things to say!
And your squallin' makes you unfit to be an adult, you stupid schmoe!
Earache ?
A town's only as good as its sense of harmony!
Shit!
An ear-ache ...
Damn it all...
Listening to the show on this blackbluest of nights.
(missed)
Yahh! Rahh!
Teach him his manners!
CRAKK!
BONK
You really DON'T know nothin do you?!
You're lucky we happen to be GENTLEMEN! Otherwise you'd be havin a funeral tonight!
PTU

"YOUR RADIO IS VERY GOOD."
"I WROTE A POEM. HERE IT IS..."
Look at that! All written in katakana.
Gonna turn to a postcard sent in by one of you listeners now.
Earache.
"I DON'T KNOW THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS.
I DON'T KNOW CAT WORDS EITHER. WORDS OF STONES EVEN LESS.
"EVERYONE'S WORDS"
...
THE MORE I LISTEN, I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I DON'T.
BUT I WORK HARD TO LISTEN.

NO ONE IS LONELY BECAUSE EVERYONE CAN HEAR THESE TRUE FEELINGS."
THEY ARE REAL WORDS. EVERYONE'S WOROS.
Wow, I can feel something bubbling up!
Something REAL to play for everyone!!
Yeah. That was nice
W-well, how about that! What a poem! No name, but I'm guessing it's from a little kid. What a heart-felt poem!
...
What a great idea!
Gonna play a session with that little kid's poem!

* Note. The spiral text is the poem quoted on the previous pages

Is this... the place?
Talk about over-doing it.
Sniff
Some-thin' smells
Gahhh!
Coff!
Cof coff!
Hahh!!
ゼク ゼク

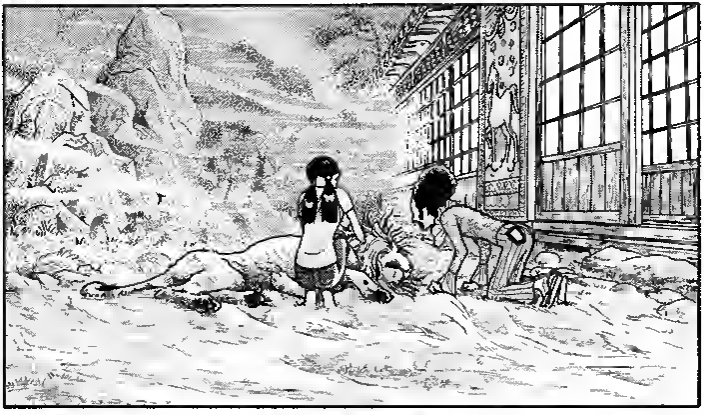
Hurrgh...
C'mon, taste good...
Please, you GOTTA taste good!
パク パク パク
モグモグ モグ
That's Ze-bikoh's voice!
Whoa
Gahh! Khak!
Whoa-hoa! I can FEEL it!
You're gonna be one damn good fish!
Why would you make kusaya in the dead heat of summer?
I thought at first
C'mon, baby! Coff!
But then it began to seam as though he was participating in some ritual
Oof, that smell
Maybe I'll come back on a better day.
Don't wanna bother him now.

EVERYONE CAN HEAR THESE TRUE FEELINGS...
Thankfully, the effect of the poem was lasting with me.
Undeterred by violence, I went back to the street (though in a new area)
A circus lion is currently out and on the loose!
Huh?
This is the Onami Police!
No pedestrians around here today, huh?
Whew...
I guess that explains the whole ghost town thing.
The situation is extremely dangerous! Close your doors tight and avoid going outside!
Man, talk about a stupid circus!
You're gonna let your LION run free?!
Dash!

It's a nice night
on a night like this,
I might just decide to go meet DJ Zebikoh
I started listening to Labyrinth Station after I saw this flyer
I had been living in Tokyo for a while without making any friends
Zebikoh's strange voice was the only thing for my heart to turn to

To be honest, I only understand about half of what Zebikoh says, though..
I know I told Mama that I was going to quit school...
but he helped convince me to stick around a bit longer
I've got a VERY special guest here tonight!
So, I have a little announcement for y'all.
I'm gonna interview him in Lionese first.
Maybe Zebikoh would agree to be my friend!
There's a lion in my backyard!
Okay!
I'm gonna go see!
Gro-awww!
ドン
Auuw! Ruaaa!

Uhh
... thud crash
Graw-www. Raww!
Maybe I can get a bit closer...
I gotta go help--
A-anyways!
Gotta go CALL for help!
GWAAK!
Paco! The lion's over at Zebaikoh's place!
Holy crap!
What does he think he's doing?!
Hurry
Hurry
Hurry
Heeey!!
Poliiice !!
Later on, I found out that none of the usual officers were around because they were busy following a false lead that some idiot gave them
...
Well, here I am. But what now?



Huff
Huff

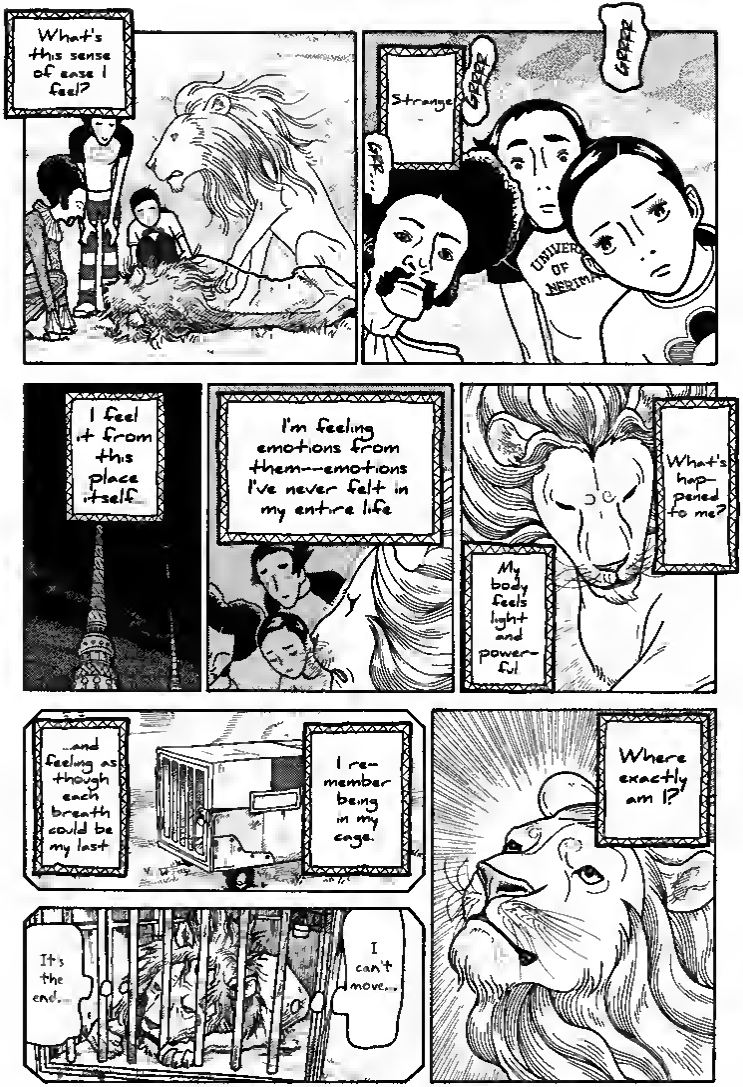
Grawwl

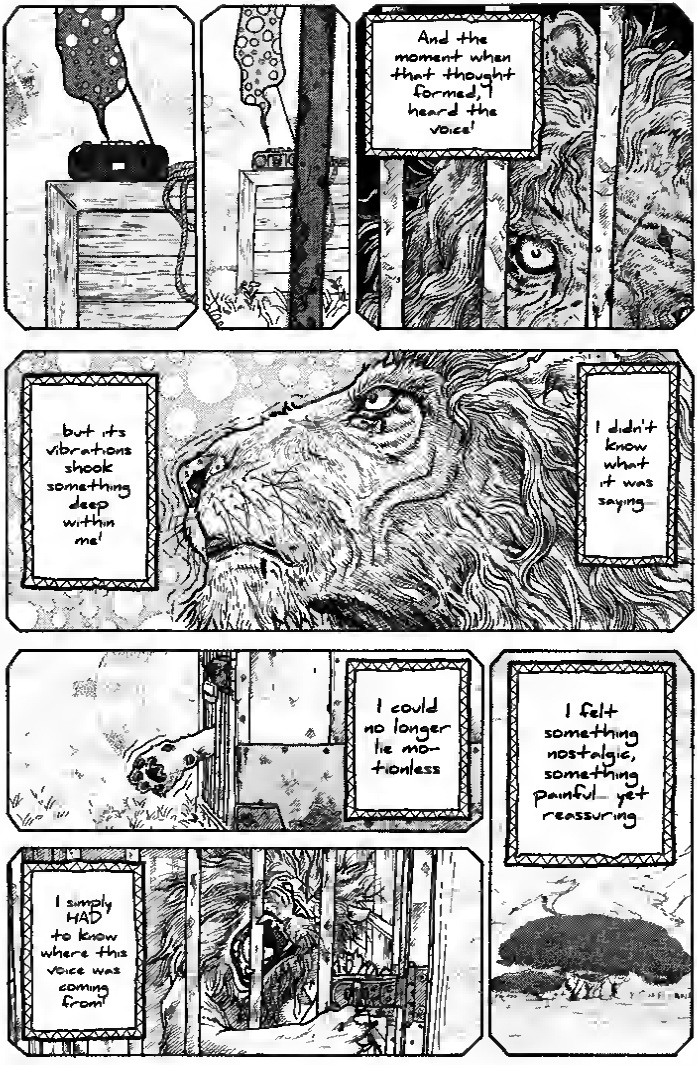
?
Okay
UNIVERSITY OF MISHIMA

Come on over here.
Yeah, it's fine!

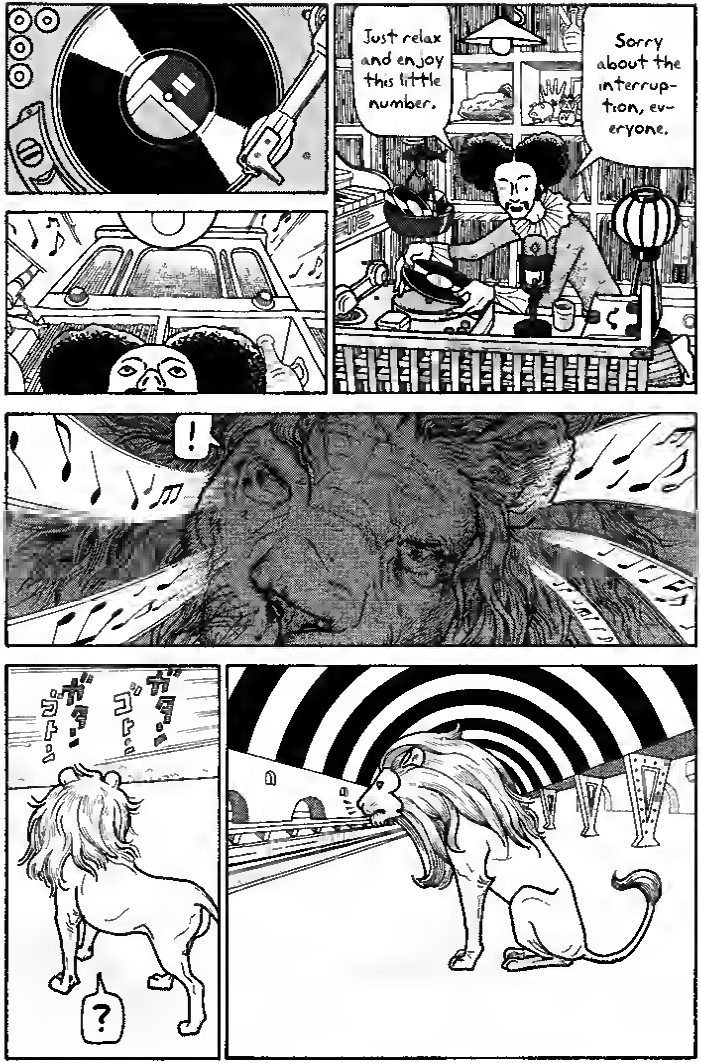
Good evening!
Is everything okay?

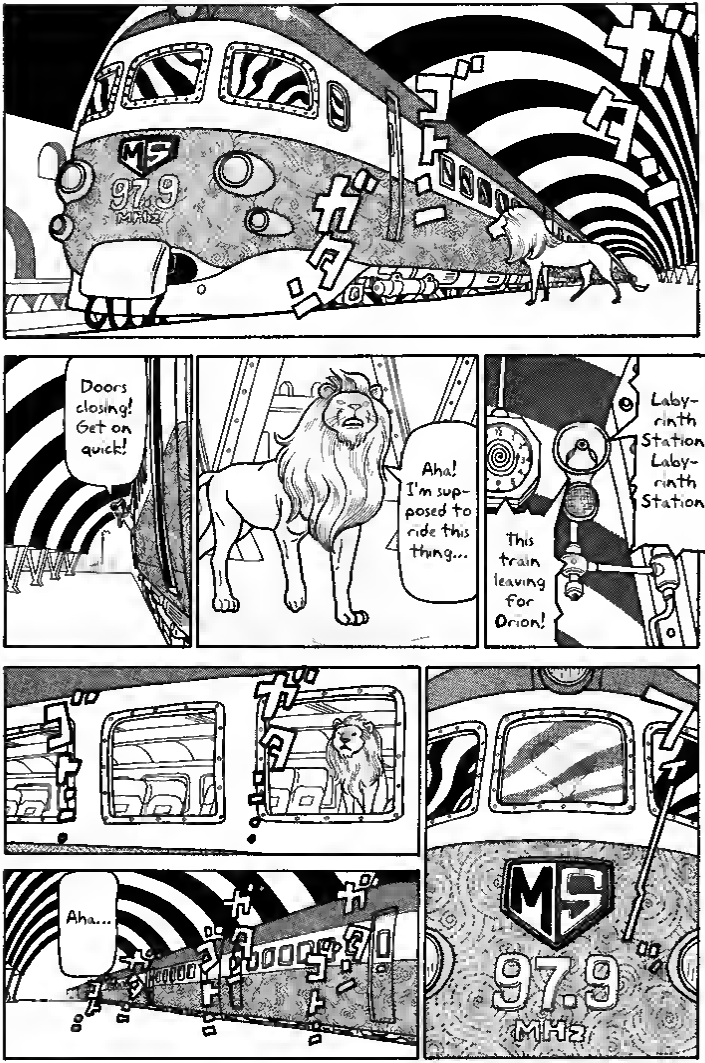
It was as if he was dying before our eyes.
GASP...
The lion was at an extremely advanced age
GASP...
Dying of sheer old age.
He's at the end of his life.
UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
So it turns out he was one old customer... I'm amazed he even made it this far.
Let's see him off together, shall we?
Okay...


What's this sense of ease I feel?
Strange
GREEZ
GREEZ
GRRR...
UNIVERSE OF NASHIMA
I feel it from this place itself...
I'm feeling emotions from them--emotions I've never felt in my entire life
What's happened to me?
My body feels light and powerful
...and feeling as though each breath could be my last
I remember being in my cage.
Where exactly am I?
It's the end...
I can't move...


And the moment when that thought formed, I heard the voice!
but its vibrations shook something deep within me!
I didn't know what it was saying...
I could no longer lie motionless
I felt something nostalgic, something painful... yet reassuring
I simply HAD to know where this voice was coming from!

I knew the lock was useless ages ago The trainer assumed that I was too old and weak to do anything about it
ボトッ
And it hit the end
The vibrations flowed and spun through the air
I could see it
..I would find something!!


Just relax and enjoy this little number.
Sorry about the interruption, everyone.
!
ボタ…
ゴト…
ボタ…
ゴト…
?


ガタン
ゴトー
MS
97.9
MHz
Doors closing! Get on quick!
Aha! I'm supposed to ride this thing...
Laby-rinth Station! Laby-rinth Station!
This train leaving for Orion!
ゴト
ガタン
Aha...
ガタン
ゴトー
MS
97.9
MHz

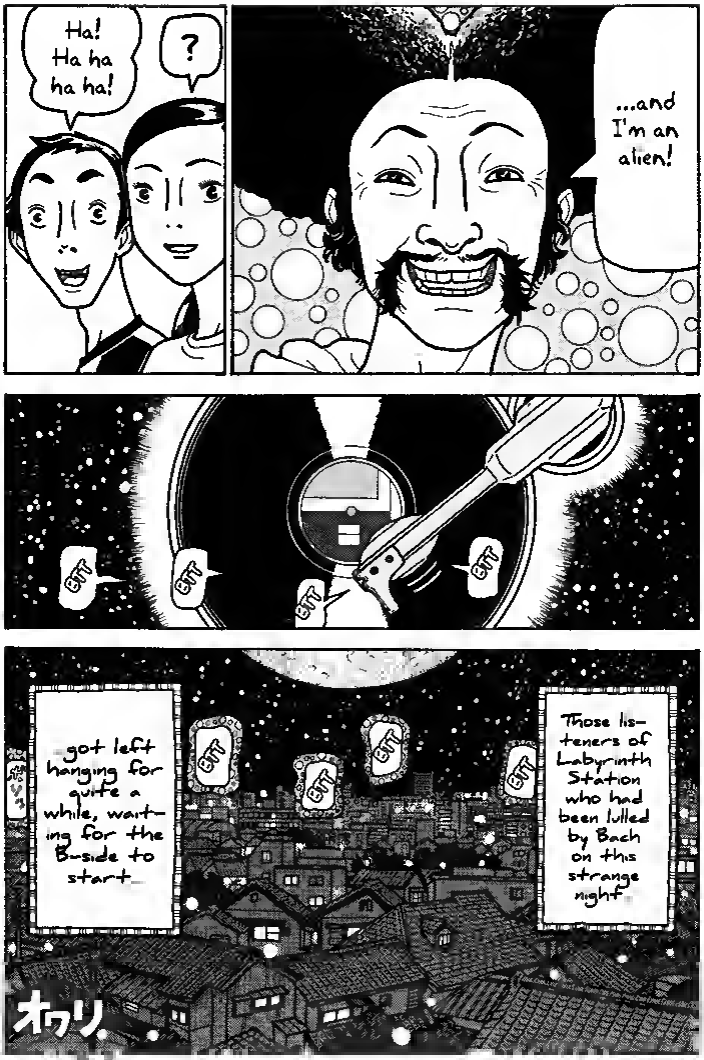
Sent off with Bach... If only we could all die in such a peaceful way.
And may we meet again someday ...
Go forth, gentle soul.
Ha ha.
Interesting perspective...
Nothing to worry about!
We all managed to get born fine, so we can manage a good death too!
AHOOOO
WOOOOO
WOOOOO
WOOOOO
WOOOOO

Oh
Oh, thanks. I don't want to impose..
Umm ..
You guys should have a drink.
Let's take a breather before I call the cops.
(I knew it! It's you!!)
一定是你!!
对!
Huh? Park?
Oh, you mean the sax ?
Wow, you know who I am?
You! You are the man goes PA-LA-LA-LA in the park?!
(In fact, I go to that park all the time just to listen to you!!)
我常去公园听你的演奏!!
(I just LOVE your play-ing!!)
我特喜欢你的演奏!!

Well, that's a very nice thing to say.
Www wow! Really ?
Hey, sometimes life ain't so bad after all!
Awesome! I love it!
You! Sax! Yes! Great!
Oh.
The mist is finally thinning out.
Don't usually get so many visitors at once.
It's a strange night.
I came from China. My name is Li Fang. I am a student.
Why don't we start with some introductions?
Well, then!
Oh!
Introduce your-- uh, what's your name?
Uh, ladies first...

!!
Wha aaat ?!
I love Labryinth Station... I wrote poem for "Everyone's Words."
Mr. Zebikoh!
Uh huh?
Y-you're the au-au-author of that?
Guess it was rude of me to assume you were a child.
Ahh, I see.
...
Well, I'll be...
Ha... Ha ha! You startled me there.
Strange thing to yell.
And you, sax man!!
Be my friend !!
UNIVERSITY OF NERIMA
Please be my friend!!

But...
you're the strangest part of all, DJ Zebkoh
Ha ha. Yeah, right.
Thanks
Of course! I'd be delighted if you were my friend!
Thanks.
Nice to meet you.
The bloom of love!
It really is a strange night
UNIVERSITY OF NEKIMA
Just who in the world ARE you? What's your deal?
Oops, forgot to do MY introduction.
My name is DJ Zebkoh ...
What are you doing here?


Ha! Ha ha ha ha!
?
...and I'm an alien!
CUT
CUT
CUT
CUT
got left hanging for quite a while, waiting for the B-side to start.
CUT
CUT
CUT
CUT
Those listeners of Labyrinth Station who had been lulled by Bach on this strange night.
オワリ。